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Lebanon

Clashes resumed between Amal Movement and Hizballah gunmen in Beirut's southern suburb 9 May, violating a cease-fire reached under Iranian and Syrian auspices the previous evening, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The hostilities began early 6 May and continued over the weekend, escalating into clashes of "unprecedented" violence 8 May, the radio said, noting estimates that 89 people were killed and over 300 wounded in the fighting.

On the course of the conflict, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon stated that Amal attacked Hizballah positions 8 May under cover of heavy artillery fire in an attempt to regain posts and areas it lost the previous day.

An Amal statement broadcast by Beirut radio blamed Hizballah for triggering the clashes, claiming that Hizballah "treacherously assassinated" three members of Amal and followed this by sending "armed gangs" to attack Amal personnel and their families. Amal was obliged to defend itself and prevent the fall of its areas into the hands of "gangs and thugs."

For Hizballah's part, the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio maintained that the "sons of Islam" are not seeking confrontation with Amal, but were "forced to defend themselves." They also showed "forbearance" by returning several captured Amal offices, the pro-Hizballah station said. According to the Voice of Lebanon, Amal accused Hizballah of carrying out a "conspiracy planned by a foreign country," while Hizballah described Amal leader Nabih Birri as a "war criminal" who has sold himself to the "great American devil."

On the attempts to stop the fighting, Voice of Lebanon noted that cease-fire negotiations at the Iranian Embassy involved Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, the Iranian ambassadors to Lebanon and Syria, and Syrian military observers. Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an has informed Lebanese leaders in West Beirut that if joint security measures fail to stop the fighting, Syria will consider sending its forces into the southern suburb, the radio added.

Support for Syrian military intervention was indicated in a statement by the Islamic Grouping, which affirmed that a permanent solution to the crisis in the southern suburb requires similar measures to the "successful experiment" in West Beirut, according to Beirut radio. The radio also carried an appeal for a cease-fire by Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who urged the warring gunmen to stop this "mad and futile carnage" and respond to Iranian and Syrian peace initiatives.

Israel

Peres in Hungary—Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres flew to Budapest 8 May and began talks with Hungarian leaders, Jerusalem television reported. Noting that this is the first time an Israeli foreign minister has visited Hungary, the television said the visit was shrouded in secrecy, and only Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Peres' closest aides knew of it beforehand.

Peres will shortly attend the Socialist International in Madrid, where he will meet with Soviet officials, the report added. In Budapest, MTI issued a brief report stating that Peres visited the Hungarian capital 8-9 May "on his own initiative" en route to the conference in Madrid.

Court Ruling on 'Awwad—Mubarak 'Awwad will not be deported from Israel until a final decision is made on his case, the High Court of Justice ruled in an injunction reported by Jerusalem radio 9 May. In response to an appeal from 'Awwad, the court had earlier issued an interim order preventing 'Awwad's deportation and instructing the interior and police ministers to present evidence within 3 days justifying his expulsion, the radio noted. On 'Awwad's legal right to remain in Israel, IDF radio reported the court's view that he has the status of an Israeli resident because he lived in East Jerusalem before the 6-Day War.

In contrast, a spokesman for Shamir stated that 'Awwad has been staying in Israel illegally since his visa expired in November 1987, according to MA'ARIV. The spokesman also accused 'Awwad of having drafted "inflammatory pamphlets" calling for violence against the Israeli authorities. 'Awwad has begun a hunger strike while in detention to protest the "slanders" against him, Jerusalem television noted.

West Bank Violence—An Arab was killed and three others wounded when IDF soldiers fired at rioters in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp 9 May, Jerusalem radio reported.

Jordan

In remarks quoted by the JORDAN TIMES 9 May, King Husayn hoped that the United States would clarify its position on the Mideast peace process before U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrives in the area for more shuttle diplomacy. The king called on the United States to fulfill its "moral obligation" and live up to its superpower "commitments." All people in the area "are watching with great interest to see what the United States can do to regain its credibility," he declared.

PLO Affairs

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, for talks 7 May on the regional situation, particularly the Palestinian uprising, INA reported.

In Amman, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas held consultations, PETRA-JNA reported. According to WAKH, they discussed ways to render support to the Palestinians in the occupied territories and they reviewed a "future plan of action" to be carried out by the joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee.

The normalization of PLO-Syrian relations depends on the implementation of several measures discussed by 'Arafat and President Hafiz al-Asad, Bassam Abu Shakir, 'Arafat's adviser for information affairs, said in remarks carried by WAKH 8 May. These measures include the release of some 3,000 Palestinians detained in Syria or in Lebanese jails under Syrian control and Syrian leave to rebuild various Lebanese refugee camps. The information official also noted that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, is expected to visit Damascus "soon" for further talks on improving relations.

Libya has pledged $4 million a month in aid to the Palestinian uprising, according to "well-informed sources" cited by TANJUG 6 May. The first installment was paid "last month" to a fledgling "pan-Arab national fund," the agency added.

Iraq-Saudi Arabia

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sent a message of gratitude to Saudi King Fahd for the "responsible pan-Arab Saudi stand" evinced by the Kingdom's breaking relations with Iran, Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi first deputy prime minister, disclosed in remarks cited by INA 7 May following his return from a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia. The Iraqi official described his talks with King Fahd as "very positive," and noted that the king expressed a desire for the expansion of bilateral relations.

Saddam Husayn also praised Saudi Arabia's break with Iran during an interview with Egypt's AL-MUSAWWAR carried by INA, urging all other Arab and Muslim states to follow the Kingdom's "bold and courageous" example.

Iran

Staff Colonel 'Ali Shahbazi was promoted to the rank of brigadier general and appointed chief of the joint staff of the Armed Forces, according to a decree signed by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and broadcast by Tehran radio 7 May. An IRNA profile noted that the 42-year-old Shahbazi is one of the youngest commanders in the Iranian military and that for the past 4 years he served as deputy chief of staff for coordination affairs.

In a separate decree carried by the radio, Khomeyni thanked the former chief of staff, Brigadier General Esma'il Sohrabi, for his efforts and appointed him "military consultant" to the Supreme War Support Council.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft carried out "successful raids" against two maritime targets near Lavan Island 7 May, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. A communique reported by Tehran radio noted that Iranian warplanes inflicted "heavy casualties and losses" on Iraqi positions in the Hajj 'Umran operational area the same day.

Regarding other action over the weekend, a military spokesman cited by INA termed Iranian reports that Iraqi artillery shelled Baneh "entirely groundless," and he stressed that Iraq has not shelled any Iranian city since 20 April. For Iran's part, a WIH spokesman cited by IRNA refuted Iraqi claims that Iranian ground forces shelled Darband-i Khan.

Libya

Libya has decided to "stop the propaganda campaign" against Egypt, according to a Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA 8 May. The statement, which was released to clarify the country's stand on relations with Egypt, stressed that Libya remains "steadfast" in its rejection of the Egyptian regime and will not meet with it as long as Egypt continues its relations with the "Zionist enemy." This foreign policy position is not a subject for "mediation or good offices," the statement declared. It also reaffirmed the 28 March decision to give the Egyptian people "absolute freedom" to enter Libya.

Regarding Libya's relations with its neighbor to the south, another Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA 7 May denied Chadian charges that Libya is planning an "aggression" and made the counterclaim that Ndjamena, in cooperation with Paris, is preparing to attack Libya. The statement also reaffirmed Libya's determination to exercise its "legitimate right of self-defense."

According to Ndjamena radio, Libya is massing troops in "Islamic Legion" camps near the common border. The radio also charged that Libyan Army soldiers recently opened fire on mutinous Chadian conscripts, killing 43 and wounding "dozens."

Sudan

The Sudanese Armed Forces recently repulsed an SPLA offensive and inflicted 500 casualties on the rebels, SUNA reported 8 May. The agency also cited an AL-ITTIHAD report that, following government offers of aid, 800 SPLA supporters fled their camps and surrendered.

Afghanistan

Relations With India—Following his return from a "historic" 3-day visit to India 6 May, President Najibullah briefed the PDPA Politburo on the "consolidation" of Afghan-Indian ties and the "broad new possibilities" for further cooperation, Kabul radio reported. In remarks cited by Delhi radio, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi affirmed that his country is disposed to render "all possible help" to Afghan reconciliation and reconstruction.

Rebel Action—A rebel communique cited by AFP 8 May declared that the Chamkani District of Paktia Province has been "liberated" and is "completely free" of Afghan Government troops. Rebel sources told the agency that after "fierce fighting," mujahidin combatants were able to seize control of a "key garrison" in the border district.

In Qandahar City, rebels attacked a PDPA office, killing eight officials and wounding many others, Islamabad radio reported 8 May. XINHUA revealed that 600 Afghan militiamen in Qandahar Province defected to the rebels 4 May, surrendering an equal number of Kalashnikov rifles as well as other military materiel.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Addresses Message on 'Uprising'

JN072021 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1747 GMT 7 May 88

["Message of love and appreciation" addressed to the Palestinian people by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the "uprising entering its 6th month"—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We will, without doubt, help our apostles and those who believe, (both) in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse] O my kinfolk, my brothers, and my beloved ones in the cherished homeland, Palestine; O our steadfast, faithful generations; O our revolutionary youths and strike forces; O revolutionary, militant popular committees; O knights of the continued confrontations and challenges; O heroes of the blessed uprising—children, women, men, and old people; O Our brave wounded who are bearing the pain and igniting the revolution; O our heroic, steadfast prisoners and detainees with all loftiness and pride; O our steadfast kinfolk in the camps of steadfastness and confrontation in southern Lebanon and Beirut:

It is glad tidings instilling happiness and reassurance in our hearts that the blessed, heroic uprising is entering its 6th month at a time when the memory of Arabs and Muslims recalls a bright and dear anniversary, the anniversary of the Badr in which God bestowed his victory on the faithful mujahidin.

After this battle, God entrenched the divine law to the effect that a faithful, militant, patient, and steadfast minority can triumph over an unjust, tyrannical majority. O my kinfolk, my brothers, and my beloved ones, there is no greater example than this heroic, immortal epic in which the uprising is entering its 6th month. With this uprising you are overcoming the harshest and ugliest campaigns of repression, terrorism, killings, and crime being carried out by the Zionist enemy.

The Zionist enemy has lost its nerve and balance. Hence, its army, armed forces, and police forces, along with the rancorous settler gangs, have persisted in the crimes of organized state repression and terrorism, killing people with live ammunition, suffocating people with poisonous gases, stopping food and water supplies, storming camps, villages, and cities with troops, tracked vehicles, tanks, and aircraft and declaring them closed military zones, blowing up houses in the occupied territories and in southern Lebanon without being punished, deporting the strugglers outside their own homeland, uprooting trees and crops, turning schools into detention camps, sealing houses with bulldozers with their inhabitants inside, and violating the sanctity of our mosques and churches.

The enemy thought it could quell your gigantic uprising, extinguish its blazing fire, and break the will of the generations which revolted throughout our Palestinian land carrying the banner of comprehensive revolution, the banner of the PLO, to establish an independent Palestinian state. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fain would they extinguish God's light with their mouths, but God will not allow but that His light should be perfected, even though the unbelievers may detest (it). [Koranic verse].

This Zionist enemy, with its armed soldiers, its rancorous herds of settlers, and its military and political leaders, is still panting after illusions that make it believe crimes can save it from the serious impasse in which the uprising has involved it on all levels, in all places, and on all fronts. Out of this sick delusion, the treacherous enemy made a decision at the highest level of leadership, with what we know was the full support and prior approval of the U.S. Administration, to assassinate my symbol Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the great leader who we are missing today. Palestine is missing him, the uprising is missing him, the revolution is missing him, and the free men and revolutionaries in the whole world are missing him.

They have forgotten that the blood of my brother and comrade Abu Jihad will be turned into fire, light, and revenge by the revolutionaries and will strengthen the arms of the heroes of the uprising. His blood will also be turned into a strong will, resolution, and determination in the eyes of our children. If I fell, O my comrade, take my position in struggle, carry my weapon, and don't be afraid of my bleeding wound. I did not die, I still call on you to pursue struggle. [Lines from a Palestinian poem]

O my people, my dear ones, what is taking place now in Sabra, Shatila, and the rest of our camps in southern Lebanon and in Beirut, and what is taking place against the Lebanese cities and villages is part of the open battle of confrontation with Israel and its agents against us and our mujahidin patriotic Lebanese. This is an open battle against us in Lebanon and against us in the last position, village, city, and camp in our beloved Palestinian land. Welcome, welcome, welcome to the confrontation and jihad. Yes, it is one battle, the enemy is one, the confrontation is one, and steadfastness is one. We have a common decision in the confrontation of Israel, its allies, and its agents; namely, revolution until victory. It is a common decision. Revolution, revolution until victory, God willing. And that God may help thee with powerful help. [Koranic verse]

Yes, yes my people, my beloved ones, and my family. O the RPG children in the camps of glory, loftiness, and steadfastness, O generations of triumphant victory in Palestine, we have pledged to continue struggle and jihad to confront the occupation until it is defeated and until

the dawn of our independent state will rise and the flags of our victory will fly over the minarets, churches, and walls of Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestine, our Palestine forever.

Harboring delusions, our enemies used all of their might to crush us and crush and uproot your organization, the PLO, entrench and consecrate their occupation, and extinguish the torch of jihad being carried by our people—the torch for which the martyr has fallen. Our enemies have unleashed the manifestations of their sick imagination and the belligerency of their tyrannical forces. However, what they perpetrated turned into defeat for them. The magic wand has turned against the magician. O, my brother and my beloved ones, this is the war they initiated in 1982 against the Palestinian people and the PLO. This war has so far continued unabated from Beirut to southern Lebanon, to the West Bank, to the Gaza Strip, to Galilee, to the Triangle, and to the Negev.

They are certain, and this has been admitted by their leaders, that it is their most difficult war. What is the term used to describe this war? The term is: the most difficult war. They know this. I say it loud and clear and let it be heard by those close and far away: It is the war that will build our people's future and inscribe the victory with letters of light and fire on the forehead of history and the pages of history. It is a victory written with the waterfall of the sweet blood of our righteous martyrs. It is a victory that will be enjoyed by the coming genrations. This victory will be entrenched and consecrated by the arms of our revolutionary heroes and bolstered by the injuries of our wounded and the sufferings of our prisoners and our detinees. These mujahidin will be supported by children, women, men, and the elderly. This support will give us this creative revolutionary accumulation, this revolutionary and epic result, which will pave the way for liberation, return, and victory, God willing. [passage indistinct]

With this, O my brothers and my beloved ones, we, in the beginning of our 6th month of the uprising, will be using our continuous, gigantic, and blessed uprising to deal a blow to the Zionist entity, which is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its usurpation of our sacred territory and homeland, to remind them there is no chance for the usurpation to establish a position or grow old on our land. Our people's inescapable will, from which we will not budge, is to realize the inalienable national rights of our people, our Palestinian Arab people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their free and independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, God willing.

It is the will of free revolutionaries, the will of justice, the will of God. God has slaves whose wishes can be turned into deeds by the will of God. [Prophetic tradition voiced by Muhammad]. Furthermore, we have made a firm decision to continue your blessed uprising, O my brothers, to continue and escalate this uprising. We have also pledged together to remain faithful to its objectives and also to the blood of our righteous martyrs. This comprehensive and sweeping uprising is nowadays echoing the voice of might and right. Let those close and far away hear that this uprising will continue with might, right, faith, sacrifices, and offerings until victory is achieved.

Yes, my brothers, your great uprising has awakened the world public's conscience and removed the veil that was covering the eyes of the entire world public, especially in Western Europe. It has also brought about moves and significant activities effected by various forces that love justice, freedom, and peace in the world with the aim of supporting the anthem of freedom which you are upholding now. This chaste blood and these great sacrifices are symbols of the struggle, revolutionary strength, right, and justice. Your jihad has become the example of the age and a pattern to be emulated by peoples who have the willpower. Besides, it has become a living testimony to their vitality and ability to forge their future using their living willpower and their unfaltering resolve.

My brothers, this gigantic uprising of yours has begun to grow and bring about interactions on an international level on more than one front, including the superpower level as well as on the level of the big powers. This growth and these interactions are being manifested daily, thus eliciting one stand after another, and producing one initiative after another in recognition of the Palestinian realities and in consecration of the Palestinian right and the Palestinian perspective regarding the just Palestinian peace, the just and comprehensive Palestinian peace. This Palestinian perspective has become an item on the agenda of every international, Arab, and regional gathering. Hence, the Palestinian reality has become the bright reality in the region.

There can be no peace, no stability, no security, and no settlements without securing the Palestinian peace, the peace which realizes the inalienable national rights of our people, including our rights to repatriation, to self-determination, and to establishing our free and independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

O, my brothers and my beloved ones. O, all my kinfolk, all my kinsmen, and all my followers. O, you generations of the exploding anger in our beloved Palestine. Your blessed uprising has injected pride, dignity, and auguries of victory into the conscience of the entire Arab world from the Gulf to the ocean. It has truly affirmed that this nation possesses the strength of faith, the great capacity to give bountiful offerings, the readiness to offer sacrifices, and the spirit of martyrdom and martyrs which provide it with an eternal glow and a continuous and neverending source of guidance and which also renders it capable of scoring victory over its enemies, the enemies of our Arab nation, to illuminate the road for all those who love freedom, wellbeing, justice, and peace throughout this world.

A thousand greetings to you, O my brothers, comrades in the trench and the march, O you who are upholding the banner of jihad on the slopes and plains of the beloved homeland. Glory belongs to the chaste blood, to the righteous martyrs, to the steadfast wounds, and to the faithful hearts which are not deterred by detention camps and prisons, including the harshest prisons and detention camps, including Ansar Detention Camps I, II, and III. Challenge them even if this results in more arrests. Time will decide who will be the triumphant party—them or us. We are a mountain which will not be moved by the wind.

Yes, we will keep the pledge, O my brothers, and continue the march, thus passing through the phases of the uprising, one phase after another, in all pride and strength and displaying willpower and resolve. This will be based on demonstrating further organization, further organization, and yet further organization. With this, I mean comprehensive, strong, firm, and accurate organization. O our brothers, O my beloved ones. Do you hear this. This will involve activities by the committees which are spread everywhere and in all spheres and in all fields. This organization will continue until our people, with all of their categories, their strata, their tendencies, their forces, their nationalist institutions and popular organizations, and all their societies and frameworks, are enabled to rally the efforts, all the efforts.

Do you hear what I am saying, the efforts, all the efforts and the capabilities, all the capabilities in this legendary sublimation of the strong faith, the deep awareness, the great precision, and the solid national unity. Do you hear what I am saying? I am talking about solid national unity and honest fraternal spirit. You must also demonstrate faith, cooperation, and solidarity, and comprehensive national endeavors until we achieve a comprehensive victory, God willing, until: that even the apostle and those of faith who were with him cried: "When will come the help of God?" Ah, verily, the help of God is (always) near!" [Part of a Koranic verse].

Verily we have granted three a manifest victory: That God may forgive thee thy faults of the past and those to follow; fulfill His favor to thee; and guide thee on the straight way; and that God may help thee with powerful help. [Koranic verse] And it is a revolution until victory, until victory, until victory.

PLO Asks Syria To Intervene in Camps War

JN061531 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (WAKH)—The PLO has asked the Syrian authorities to intervene immediately to stop the offensives against the Palestinians in the Shatila and Al-Burj camps which has been continuing for the 6th consecutive day. In a statement to a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad today, a responsible Paletinian source said that unidentified agent groups are still attacking the Shatila and Al-Burj camps using all types of weapons, missiles, and shells.

In a statement issued last night, the PLO Executive Committee condemned these aggressions. The PLO Executive Committee said these aggressions aim to drag the Palestinian people into side battles far from the major field of confrontation in the occupied territory. The responsible Palestinian source said the agent groups use artillery emplacements in Baysur and Qabr Shmun and attack our camps from the forces' [not further identified] positions surrounding these camps. It is known that the Shatila and Al-Burj camps are located in an area under the control of the Syrian forces in Beirut. The source added that the contacts the PLO held directly with Damascus through Libya and Algeria did not result in ceasing these attacks.

The Palestinian source said: Regrettably, the crazy, suspect aggressions are still continuing. Concluding his statement, the Palestinian source said: The PLO reiterates its appeal to the Syrian brothers and to all Arab brothers to assist in halting the onslaughts and prepared aggressions against our camps and people. He said the PLO reiterates its absolute rejection of the attempts to drag it into marginal and side battles sought by these suspect elements.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, held a telephone contact 2 days ago with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on attacks against the Shatila camp and on the need for containing the incident as soon as possible. The Executive Committee also called on officials in Libya and Algeria to work to end these attacks.

PFLP-GC 'Denounces' Inter-Palestinian Clashes

JN071804 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1635 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Reacting to allegations that the PFLP-GC is involved in the inter-Palestinian fighting which has been going on for several days, a responsible PFLP-GC source has stated the following:

We denounce this suspect fighting and warn against the consequences of its continuation and its effects, which are detrimental to the prospects of the popular revolution in Palestine and the morale of our militant kinfolk. While doing so, we would like to affirm the following:

1. We deny and refute these allegations in part and parcel.

2. We denounce the current fighting which some parties are instigating.

3. The PFLP-GC has enough courage to admit it if it is involved in the fighting. The PFLP-GC denounces the fighting as a whole and is aware that dragging its name into the fighting is an attempt to drag it into the fighting.

4. We ask all national and progressive forces in the Arab and international arenas to raise their voice and begin efforts to end the fighting.

5. We denounce the suspicious silence of some sides, which feed this fighting by remaining silent and by ignoring the clashes.

We in the PFLP-GC will not allow plots to turn us from escalating armed struggle and supporting the popular revolution in Palestine. We will persevere in our attempts to stop the series of plots and liquidationist attempts.

PFLP-GC Leader Views Palestinian Clashes

JN071914 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1640 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The PFLP-GC held a popular rally on Martyrs Day. PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril made an important speech in which he spoke about the significance of martyrdom, beginning with the 6 May and the Arab nation's martyrs, who paved the way for martyrdom and sacrifices for the Arab nation's sake. He said martyrs have continued to fall throughout the successive Palestinian revolutions and in the various areas of struggle in the Arab nation's history. He added that these struggles and revolutions are being crowned by the martyrs of the revolution of stones, the martyrs of the Palestinian popular revolution.

Mr Jibril then spoke about the inter-Palestinian fighting in the Lebanese camps. He clearly defined the Front's stand on the current fighting, noting the dire consequences of the clashes in terms of harming the people and revolution and the destructive effect of this plot on the morale of our militant masses in Palestine.

Jibril said: We are witnessing this infighting at a time when the uprising inside Palestine is realizing daily victories and changing the views of the whole world, making it stand in respect and awe. Our main interest was to seek means of supporting the uprising; our main worry was how to continue to escalate the armed struggle. Our people inside Palestine were asking us to protect the uprising from external plots to avoid aborting it. Now it has become clear who is contributing to aborting the uprising. Those who fabricated the Palestinian infighting since the Tripoli events are still bent on dismembering Palestinian ranks and fragmenting the Palestinian arena.

He said: What has happened was prepared with the aim of stabbing the Palestinian popular uprising to render a great service to the Zionist enemy which is trying to suppress our people's uprising. What has happened was a plot aimed at making our people despair, Jibril added.

Mr Jibril accused the Mosad and the CIA of manipulating events so we might decimate each other when we are about to begin the 6th month of the uprising.

He said: Certain sides have exploited the new relationship with Syria and also made use of the lessons of the uprising to further shed Palestinian blood. Jibril said that despite what has happened, the PFLP-GC will continue to exercise self-restraint with the aim of foiling the plot which was hatched by the president of the Egyptian regime and George Shultz. He stressed the need to close ranks to promote our people's revolution in Palestine.

Al-Quds Radio Criticizes Camps Fighting

JN071821 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1507 GMT 7 May 88

[Commentary by Al-Quds radio political editor: "No Voice Should Be Allowed To Rise Above That of the Uprising"]

[Text] With all shame, sorrow, and regret, we will tackle this issue which we wished to be spared the chance of discussing. With all sadness and bitterness, we are currently shifting the importance attached to what is currently taking place in Palestine to tackle another marginal issue that lies outside the primary sphere of importance to us and to Al-Quds radio—the Palestinian Arab radio on the road of liberating land and man. This radio has drawn up for itself a clear-cut policy and a specific objective; namely, that of highlighting activities related to Palestine, and everything that fans the revolt being staged in Palestine. It is also this radio's policy to highlight the activities being staged by all those who work for the sake of Palestine and by all those who offer sacrifices for the sake of Palestine and seek to enhance the Palestinian revolution—land and man.

We will tackle another issue which was forced upon us and which made it inevitable that we address it. It would have been 1,000 times easier for us to speak about another issue than to be forced by circumstances to tackle this one. With all sorrow and bitterness, we are speaking about the infighting which has been taking place in the Shatila camp and other camps in southern Lebanon. The first question posed is about which wasteland and destruction are they fighting? Over what debris and what benefit is sought by this infighting? We raise questions one after another about the beneficiary of this infighting.

Is not the Zionist enemy the first beneficiary? Does it not top the list of those voicing happiness over this infighting? The headlines carried by newspapers and news media speak about the fratricidal fighting, the blood

spilled in this fratricidal fighting, and those martyred and wounded in this fratricidal fighting. The Zionist-American enemy is voicing real jubilation, as Palestinian blood is being spilled at the hands of Palestinians.

These events are suspect, suspect, suspect, irrespective of the justifications, reasons, and objectives advanced. The infighting which has been taking place in the Shatila and Sidon camps is occurring under the following circumstances:

1. The escalation of the confrontation in Palestine and the readiness of the sweeping Palestinian revolution—the uprising—to enter its 6th month with all solidity, firmness, determination, and unwaivering willpower.

2. The rise in the number of those martyred among our heroic kinfolk in Palestine to 170. This figure rises as this commentary is being aired.

3. The staging by the Zionist enemy of the largest-scale incursion which involved search operations in steadfast and proud southern Lebanon and the heroic confrontations by the heroes of southern Lebanon.

The infighting raging over the debris and remnants of the Shatila camp coincides with these circumstances. We are speaking about Shatila which has the least semblance of a camp. Destruction is everywhere and ruination is also everywhere. Ghosts are the only beings who can stay among the ruins there. Against this background of ruination, the infighting coincides with the Zionist incursion and also with the siege being imposed by the Zionist-American enemy against our kinfolk in the camps, cities, and villages of eastern Palestine and the Gaza coast. The infighting coincides with the intensification of the Zionist-American campaign which seeks to slay our heroic uprising.

Having said all this, do we not have the right to point accusing fingers at the one who initiated the fighting and to accuse the one who is continuing the fighting and to condemn the one who makes a hue and cry in the world justifying this infighting? The course which seeks to use the cards of settlements is the one which aims to draw attention away from the uprising and to bring it back to everything that is marginal. The course which seeks to eat the flesh of others is the one which seeks to eat the flesh of the uprising and the flesh of all combatants in the Palestinian revolution. The course which is doing everything to demonstrate its moderation to the Zionist-American enemy is the one which is sacrificing the Palestinian combatants on the altars of capitulatory settlements.

O revolutionary brothers, we have never sought or desired to tackle this issue. However, we cannot ignore it or keep silent over it. This issue concerns our kinfolk. It is connected to our values. It is also directly related to the safety of the revolution. We cannot, as we have always said, keep silent over any issue that might undermine the Palestinian revolution. He who seeks to bring about Palestinian national unity succumbs to the unanimous will of the Palestinians. For example, all factions call for severing ties with the Camp David regime whose ambassador in Tel Aviv sees the tragedies suffered by our people and their martyrs. He also sees the sieges being imposed on our people without stirring a finger.

The course based on the pursuit of capitulation is insistent on bypassing the will of the unanimous Palestinian stand and totally ignoring national untiy. It insists on perpetuating and continuing the relationship with the Camp David regime. He who seeks to bring about a reconciliation with Syria neither procrastinates nor delays in providing answers for the questions raised by Syria. He also does not open fire in the Shatila and Sidon camps 1 week after the Damascus visit, as if all this firepower and destruction constitute the practical answer for these Syrian questions.

O you, our kinfolk in Palestine, you who forged miracles and you whose uprising has had a great effect on ending the camps war with our neighbors [the Amal Movement]. O, our kinfolk, raise your voice and say it loud: Cursed be he who licks the Palestinian blood and cursed be he who spills this chaste blood. O our kinfolk in Palestine. Let all the leaderships which seek to preoccupy themselves with marginal issues, thereby neglecting you and serving their selfish interests, hear your chants. O our heroic kinfolk. We know we are burdening you under these circumstances, more than a militant people can bear. However, you are the kinfolk and the judge. You are the kinfolk and the party which has the final say on this issue. The eyes and hearts look up to you.

Raise slogans which denounce all infighting and raise slogans which expose all those who are conspiring against our heroic uprising. Let the slogan which is repeated in the beginning of all uprising calls materialize. With this, we mean the slogan: No voice should be allowed to rise above that of the uprising. Let all voices which call for staging inter-Palestinian infighting be silenced. And let all rifles point toward the Zionist enemy. As for you, our kinfolk and brothers in heroic Shatila, we address you saying: Enough. You know better than all those who issue the infighting orders that you are the fuel of this infighting and that they are located everywhere, but outside the sites of killing and destruction.

O, our kinfolk in heroic Shatila. Nothing is more important than the homeland and nothing is more precious than the blood of comrades in arms. Furthermore, no loss is graver than that of losing oneself and one's conscience. Let us bury the conspiracy in its cradle and let us end the jubilation of the Zionist-American enemy. Let us proceed with all our power to support the uprising. The most important support that can be rendered to

the uprising right now lies in ending inter-Palestinian bloodshed. God is with us and victory is close at hand. Let us proceed together on the road to liberating land and man.

Official Says PLO Supports Joint Delegation

LD0805100788 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0835 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Kuwait 8 May (KUNA)—A Palestinian official has said the PLO supports the idea of a joint Arab delegation to the international peace conference, provided that in this delegation the PLO is on equal footing with all other Arab sides.

In an interview with AL-SIYASAH published today, 'Abbas Zaki, the PLO official in charge of foreign relations, says the PLO calls for an independent delegation if there are independent delegations; otherwise, we approve of the idea of a joint Arab delegation.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad proposed the idea of a joint Arab delegation as one of the conditions for holding an international conference, with full authority, during the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, to Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and the Zionist entity.

About the existence of a link between the visit to Moscow by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat [Abu 'Ammar] and his coming visit to Jordan, Mr Zaki said Abu 'Ammar's visit to Moscow was planned long ago, but was postponed until now because of the preoccupations of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He said this visit has nothing to do with the information leaked in the wake of the Amman summit to the effect that Moscow talks duplicitously about the Palestinian issue, saying one thing to Jordan and another to the PLO.

He stressed that the Soviet position is clear and supports holding an international conference under UN auspices with the participation of the UN Security Council's permanent members and concerned parties, including the PLO, on equal footing.

The Palestinian official pointed out that Abu 'Ammar's visit to Moscow has strategic purposes concerning financial support, pushing forward the pace of political aciton, and stepping up consultations with the Soviets in the current critical and sensitive stage.

He said 'Arafat's visit to Amman will take place "if we agree on the international conference, peace plan, and support of the internal front."

OPEC Affairs

Venezuelan Energy Minister Urges Cooperation

PA0705131388 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Oil, as a basic source of income, is one of OPEC's greatest concerns. Venezuelan Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, reviewing the results of the latest OPEC conference, said a regular OPEC conference will be held in 1 month. He believes representatives of non-OPEC producers should participate in this conference to reach an understanding on the necessity to stabilize prices on the international market.

[Begin recording] [Reporter, in progress] ...deny or confirm the joint meeting, there are serious indications that new talks are in the offing. According to Hernandez Grisanti, the majority of analysts agree there will be increased demand for oil in the 2d half of the year. If no agreement is reached between the two groups, however, it will be very difficult to maintain the $18 net price per barrel through December. Although increased demand will tend to keep the price up, some measure by both OPEC and non-OPEC members will be necessary to maintain an acceptable price level.

[Grisanti] We are at a point when, if we make the right decision, we can increase the price by a minimum of $2. It will be deplorable if we do not make this decision. The increased demand foreseen for the 2d half of the year, however, would maintain the price at the present level. It will be deplorable that for lack of agreement by OPEC members—due to interests that are often politically motivated—we do not achieve a recovery of $2 or $3 over the present level, which would benefit Venezuela and all the other OPEC members. [end recording]

Hernandez Grisanti is opposed to a price war and said that in the last few days oil prices have shown a tendency to rise and stabilize, hitting a maximum of $16.35 and a minimum of $14.60. Regarding our country's position in OPEC, Hernandez Grisanti said Venezuela will be firm in its proposals. Venezuela will not try to lead anyone, he said, but will defend its interests and views with its lofty moral and political authority, which is our country's best defense against the attacks and aggression of its detractors in the organization.

Norwegian Oil and Energy Minister Arne Oien will come to Venezuela in June. Meanwhile, the GIPLACEP [Informal Group of Latin American and Caribbean Oil Exporting Countries] conference will be held in Cartagena, Colombia, next week. This will be a propitious occasion for Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Colombia, as independent producers outside OPEC, to discuss, even if only in the GIPLACEP framework, the new opportunities that will be created for these countries and other non-OPEC countries if an agreement is reached at the next OPEC conference on 8 June in France.

Chad

43 Reportedly Killed in 'Mutinies' in Libya

AB0705105788 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 6 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Al-Qadhdhafi persists in pursuing his annexationist (?offensive) against Chad. Indeed, 3 days ago, Chadians enlisted by force in the camp of (Mordom) in southern Libya to swell the numbers of the Islamic Legion revolted to show their total disagreement with Libyan military maneuvres aimed at perpetuating the war in Chad. Mutinies followed, and the Libyan Army opened fire on them, leaving 43 dead and several dozens wounded. Fortunately, some of our compatriots who opposed enlistment into the ranks of the Islamic Legion succeeded in eluding the regular Libyan Army and are on their way to Chad. This is the new situation created by the bloodthirsty regime of Tripoli.

Here is a commentary on the situation compiled by the editorial board.

Forty-three dead, dozens wounded, and desperate (?escape attempts): This is the price paid by Chadians enlisted and crowded together at (Mordom) south of Tripoli following the mutiny 48 hours ago that they risked to protest their fate. Not only do they find themselves in Libyan territory by force, but also they are being prepared against their will to perpetrate crimes against their country. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Government Said To Reject Israel Joining Accord

NC0905101488 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 6 May 88 pp 1, 9

[Amin Radwan report]

[Text] Cairo—AL-SAFIR has learned that at the end of last week the Egyptian Government received a message from the U.S. Department of Defense (Pentagon) which included U.S. approval of Israel's request to join the U.S.-Egyptian military memorandum of understanding as a third party.

Sources close to the Egyptian Government have reported that the Pentagon provided justification for approving Israel's request, stating that the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement allows the Israelis to enter into any military agreements that the United States concludes with any other party, excluding NATO countries, provided the United States and the other party agree.

The sources added that the U.S. Defense Department asked the Egyptian Government to inform it of its acceptance or rejection of Israel's proposal.

The message stated that the U.S. Administration hopes the Egyptian Government will accept Israel's third party status in the agreement, noting that Egypt's acceptance would have positive effects on Egyptian-Israeli relations and strengthen the possibility that additional non-military aid will be given to Egypt and Israel, exceeding previously approved U.S. foreign aid for each of them.

The message added that if Egypt agrees, this is bound to open the door to future Egyptian-Israeli cooperation in the field of weapons manufacturing technology. It also noted that according to the military memorandum of understanding such weapons can be sold to the United States and NATO.

The sources added that the U.S. message rationalized U.S. approval of the Israeli request by pointing out that the clauses of the memorandum of understanding do not include any ban on other parties joining the agreement.

The sources also reported that the Egyptian authorities have referred the message to an Egyptian governmental team of experts so that an appropriate answer voicing Egypt's rejection can be drafted.

The same sources said Egypt has rejected repeated Israeli attempts to embark on military cooperation, although it has not rejected cooperation with Turkey in the field of manufacturing U.S. armaments, such as the M-1 tank.

Government Backs Saudi Decision on Iran Ties

PM0605144788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 May 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Iran Must Reconsider Its Calculations After Saudi Arabia's Decision To Sever Relations"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Egypt's support for the Saudi decision to sever relations with Iran is in line with the principled policy of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, which rejects methods of intimidation, preconditions, and the use of armed force to subjugate the will of the peoples, because such methods are unacceptable in our civilized world. Egypt both rejects and condemns them if exercised in the policy of one state against another.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the Egyptian foreign minister pointed out that Egypt hastened to announce its support for the Saudi decision, based on Egyptian understanding of national and pan-Arab security, which is firmly linked to the security of the Gulf region and the region we inhabit and to which we belong, because it is a vital element in determining Egypt's political, national, and pan-Arab objectives.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt hopes Iran's rulers will reconsider, in light of the Saudi decision, their erroneous calculations in dealing with the Gulf states; respond to

regional and international endeavors; agree to sit at the negotiating table to settle the conflict with Iraq and end the war; and not resort to broadening the war to include other Gulf states.

Libya

Maghreb Visit by John Whitehead Criticized

LD0705093188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 7 May (JANA)—The Voice of America stated today that during the coming week John Whitehead, U.S. deputy secretary of state, will visit the western region of the Arab homeland, which includes Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

A spokesman for the U.S. State Department has announced that John Whitehead's visit to Algeria is aimed at obtaining information on the hijackers of the Kuwaiti aircraft, who are still in Algeria according to American radio.

This visit is within the framework of visits made by envoys of the U.S. Administration to the Arab region in a desperate attempt to subjugate it within the sphere of imperialist hegemony. We are surprised by the motives behind the visit of the U.S. envoy to investigate the case of a hijacked Arab aircraft in an Arab land. This is a purely Arab issue which has nothing to do with the United States and we are surprised that the U.S. Administration appoints itself policeman to interfere in the affairs of others while it is the one that patronizes and officially supports state terrorism in all parts of the world.

The U.S. Administration should be aware and should very well know that fraternal Algeria, whose masses offered 1 and 1/2 million martyrs in it's resistance to the French colonialist invasion, is a strong rock in the face of the U.S. Administration and the rest of the imperialist alliance, which is its satellite.

The U.S. Administration's envoy, John Whitehead, should very well know that fraternal Tunisia after 7 November 1987 is not the Tunisia with which the U.S. Administration has dealt in the past.

We affirm that this visit is aimed at implementing the colonialist slogan of divide and rule, and we also affirm that the visit seeks to spread poison and discord and to poison fraternal Arab relations.

The U.S. Administration should confine itself within its borders and stop interfering in the affairs of others.

We whisper in the ear of this U.S. envoy—before his feet desecrate Arab land—that he will return empty-handed and the sorcery will rebound to the sorcerer.

Government Position on Ties With Egypt Explained

LD0805170288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 8 May (JANA) — Some media sources have reported on endeavors to improve relations between Libya and Egypt. Some of these sources hint that Libya, through mediations, is looking for a resumption of relations with the Egyptian regime. In order to put things in their proper perspective and to eliminate any confusion that such reports might cause in some people's minds, the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stresses the following:

1. The 28 March initiative by the brother leader of the revolution was directed at the Arab people in Libya and Egypt and is not concerned with political relations. Egyptians have absolute freedom to enter and leave Libya and Libyans have total liberty to go to Egypt. For our part, our borders are open for people to enter and leave; there are no conditions. Libyan forces have been withdrawn from the border region; the eastern military region has been abolished; telephone contacts have been restored to facilitate communications among citizens in both countries, particularly for Egyptian nationals who work and live in Libya.

What was initiated by the brother leader on 28 March has been implemented. It will not be withdrawn, regardless of the Egyptian regime's reaction, which was not the target of this initiative.

2. Our stance toward the Egyptian regime has been steadfast since Al-Sadat's decision to go to Jerusalem, and when he went further and signed the Camp David accords. This stance has been repeatedly and clearly asserted in the speeches of the brother leader of the revolution, as well as the resolutions of the basic people's congress. We feel, with much regret, that the Egyptian regime has not yet changed the position which was drafted by Al-Sadat. The commitment to the Camp David accords is the cornerstone of Egyptian policy and the normalization and strengthening of its relations with the enemy and the United States are given priority over any other consideration.

3. We reject any meeting with the Egyptian regime as long as it continues to have relations with the Zionist enemy. Furthermore, we refuse to permit the Libyan flag to be raised in Cairo as long as the Zionist flag is hoisted there. This has repeatedly been asserted by the leader and has been affirmed by the basic people's resolutions. Therefore, this position cannot be a matter for mediation or good offices.

4. We have decided to stop the propaganda campaign. We are still committed to this decision despite the fact the Egyptian regime has countered our stance with an escalation of its propaganda campaigns.

We have sought explanations for the Egyptian regime's reactions, with regard to the nature of its ties with the United States. There has been no clearer indication than the Egyptian statement which at first welcomed the brother leader's initiative and was then retracted. This was due to the prejudice of the defense minister, who was then on a visit to the United States. This lead has been followed by others.

Foreign Ministry Denies 'Aggression' Plans
LD0705121888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1125 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 7 May (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison categorically refutes the lies circulated by Ndjamena about military preparations by the Jamahiriyah to launch an aggression on northern Chad, and about a so-called Islamic legion. The Committee affirms the following:

First: It is agent Habre who is preparing for aggression, in fulfillment of the orders by those who have the decision-making power—the United States and those to whom he owes his presence in Ndjamena.

Second: The preparation by Ndjamena to launch an aggression coincides with the hostile statements made by the French minister of cooperation, and with France's renovation and expansion of the runways at Ouadi Doum and Faya-Largeau airfields. These military preparations confirm that France and Habre now have a free hand to launch an aggression against the Jamahiriyah's territory. This will be reflected in the agreement between France and Habre to launch an aggression, which was postponed because of the elections in France.

Third: Facing up to this aggressive escalation, the People's Committee affirms that the Great Jamahiriyah will respond to any aggression against its territory and will destroy its sources, in fulfillment of its legitimate right of self-defense and in accordance with the UN Charter.

$4 Million Allocated Monthly for 'Uprising'
LD0605145988 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1400 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, May 6 (TANJUG) — Libya has allotted four million dollars a month as aid to the uprising in the occupied territories and the first installment was paid last month as Libya's contribution to the pan-Arabic national fund currently in the process of being established.

Well-informed sources report that for the moment Libya is the only country that has contributed a substantial financial assistance to the Palestinian uprising.

The formation of the pan-Arabic national fund for aid to the Palestinian uprising will be one of the major subjects of the inter-Palestinian reconciliation dialogue whose first phase should start shortly in Tripoli at the invitation of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi.

In keeping with the proposal of some Palestinian factions all aid to the Palestinian uprising should go through the fund, while all other forms of financial support given directly to factions, organisations or individuals would be considered "sabotage of the revolution."

According to some reports two candidates for the fund president are considered at the moment—Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt and son of late Egyptian President al-Nasir, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir.

Morocco

UN Secretary General Leaves After Visit 4 May
LD0405221788 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] UN Secretary General Mr Perez de Cuellar left Morocco this evening after a working visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II.

At Sale airport, Mr Perez de Cuellar made a statement in which he announced that he was going to New York because of the urgent issues put before the United Nations. The UN official expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II for the warm reception accorded him and said he had carried out important and useful talks with his majesty and stressed that he had learned a lot from them.

Mr Perez de Cuellar pointed out he will concentrate on studying the views he was honored to exchange with his majesty. He added he will continue his mission according to the UN General Assembly resolution and expressed hope that the good intentions and necessary political will would contribute to reaching a just and permanent solution.

Mr Perez de Cuellar and Mr Isa Diallo, the director of his office, were seen off by Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Alaoui, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali, and Morocco's permanent UN representative Mr Dris Slaoui.

Sudan

Prime Minister Cables Ethiopian President
LD0705183088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1709 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 7, (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi has expressed hope that the coming stage would be characterized by the continuation of joint efforts towards opening a new page for the historical

relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, the matter that would consolidate bases of peace, security and development for the sake of peoples of the two countries.

This came in a cable Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had sent to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam in reply to a cable he received from the Ethiopian leader on the occasion of his re-election as prime minister.

Joint Committee To Meet 12 May

JN081131 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 8 May (SUNA)—The Sudanese-Ethiopian Joint Committee will meet on 12 May to discuss the problems between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Yusuf Mukhtar, director of the African Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated this to the newspaper AL-HADAF, adding that suggestions and proposals will be made to resolve differences between Sudan and Ethiopia on border problems and maneuvres. After that another policy will be formulated for fruitful cooperation between the two countries, Mukhtar siad.

He added that Ethiopian President Mengistu and Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will meet during the African summit on 25 May to remove obstacles that might face the technical committee.

SPLM Office 'Shut Down'

NC0605121888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 6 May (MENA)—A responsible Sudanese source today stated that there is a rapprochement between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement in the south in the wake of recent talks between Sudan and Ethiopia, during meetings of the joint bilateral committee.

The source added that the Ethiopian Government has shut down the offices of the rebel SPLM, led by John Garang, in Addis Ababa and that the movement has transferred its offices to the border area of Gambela. The source added that further rapprochement is expected in coming days in light of indirect contacts between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement. The source expressed optimism over the prospects for establishing peace in the south and for allowing the Garang movement to participate in the Sudanese Government, playing a role in achieving peace and development in Sudan.

Red Cross To Begin Relief Operations in South

LD0705193088 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 7 MAY 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 7, (SUNA)—Relief operations launched by the Red Cross organization will commence in southern Sudan soon, an official source at the Red Cross said.

Following a meeting here today with Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi the official source said all relief operations will be implemented inside the Sudanese territories and will not extend to any land inside the neighboring countries.

On the Red Cross connection with the rebel movement the source explained that the organization is a humanitarian and neutral one which has nothing to do with politics.

Party Presents Demands on Cabinet Posts

JN071210 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 7 May (SUNA)—The weekly newspaper AL-WATAN, published here today, has said that the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] asked Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi not to give the five ministries allocated for the south to the southern groups that supported his election as prime minister in the Constituent Assembly.

The paper added that the surprising request stressed the need for keeping cabinet portfolios for the other southern parties, which did not support the election of the prime minister. The reference was made to Father Surur's group.

In another development, the paper reported that the Al-Ummah's general secretariat asked the prime minister and leader of the Al-Ummah Party during a meeting Thursday to send two urgent and definitive messages to the leaders of the DUP and the National Islamic Front demanding that they quickly decide their stands on disputed issues and nominate candidates for the new government.

The meeting also approved the rejection of the nomination of Ahmad Sulayman as speaker of the Constituent Assembly, considering this decision to be final. The meeting also approved a decision not to give the Interior Ministry portfolio to the DUP.

4 Arabs Accused of Terrorism Released

JN071051 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 7 (SUNA)—The four Arab nationals, who were arrested here by security authorities were released. News reports quoted a security source as

confirming the four Arabs had entered the country with a purpose of conducting trade mission with some Sudanese companies and businessmen.

The released Arabs were accused by the leadership of the Islamic National Front of planning to assassinate some of its leaders.

Reportage on Civil War in South

Rebels Report Operations

LD0505170988 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpts] SPLA forces of axis two, under direct operational command of Captain Garang Mobil Deng and overall command of Commander Salva Kiir Mayar Dit, deputy chief for operations and security, launched a heavy attack recently on the enemy garrison at Hillat al-Sharif in southern Blue Nile and inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy. Eighty-seven enemy soldiers were killed and very many others were injured. [passage omitted] A correspondent says that most of the enemy's barracks was reduced to ashes in the operation, which lasted 2 hours. [passage omitted]

In a further development, an SPLA force ambushed enemy troops south of Hillat al-Sharif in southern Blue Nile. In the area of the ambush two enemy trucks—a Fiat, No 4551 and a Magirus, No 5919—carrying enemy soldiers were blown up by two landmines killing 13 and wounding many others. [passage omitted]

SPLA Losses Noted

LD0705194088 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 MAY 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel (Bale Negon), together with 400 soldiers, declared that they had split from the forces of Gordon Kong, former commander of Anya Nya II, who has joined John Garang's movement.

The Anya Nya II spokesman, Major (Wingie Torton) said: Anya Nya II forces captured a Garang movement camp in Atara [word indistinct] area after fierce fighting at the end of April. A large number of rebels were killed, and eight captured. Before this battle there was a clash between Anya Nya II and the rebels, near Bentiu, which resulted in 74 rebels being killed. There was another engagement with rebel forces which ended in a large number being captured, and others killed.

800 Rebels Surrender

JN081200 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 8 (SUNA)—Eight hundred people have surrendered to the Armed Forces after they fled the camps of the rebels, deputy of Raga Constituency "Equatoria Region" 'Abd al-Samad Mustafa Ambu told AL-ITTIHAD.

Mr Ambu said that the people who were from Abulu area "Equatoria Region" said that they had joined the forces of John Garang one and half years ago.

He indicated that the acting commissioner and Armed Forces commander of Raga area had sent a committee to inspect condition of those people and to offer them an urgent aid.

Meanwhile General Commander of Armed Forces General Fawzi Ahmad al-Fadil said that investigations with the captives who were captured recently during the battles of Upper Nile Region has started here tomorrow. [as received]

The Armed Forces recently repulsed an offensive by the rebellion forces of John Garang and inflicted them five hundred casualties.

The general command yesterday met with chairman of the Council of State and acquainted him with the security situation in the military operations zone.

Tunisia

Prime Minister Receives Soviet Envoy

LD0505201288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche received at the government palace of La Casbah this afternoon Mr Mikhail Sytenko, roving ambassador and Soviet special envoy, who stated that his visit comes within the framework of the tradition of good relations between the two countries which are based on the exchange of views on bilateral and international matters.

The Soviet envoy added that the meeting covered the situation in Afghanistan in the wake of the signing in Geneva of the special agreements. He pointed out also that the discussion provided an opportunity to discuss the methods of the participation of Tunisia and the Soviet Union in implementing the agreement for normalizing the situation in Afghanistan.

PLO Message Conveyed to USSR Envoy

LD0705141588 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Tunis, 7 May (TAP)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has sent an urgent message to the Soviet leadership concerning the latest developments in the region and the Zionist enemy's measures in the occupied territories against the Palestinian people.

The message also concerns the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the importance of concentrating on supporting the heroic uprising until it achieves all its aims.

Hakim Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunisia, conveyed 'Arafat's message during his meeting yesterday evening with Mikhail Sytenko, the Soviet special roving envoy who is currently visiting Tunisia.

Foreign Ministry Source Criticizes Israel

LD0605171888 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] An authorized source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that the Tunisian Government followed with utmost anxiety and indignation the treacherous aggression mounted by the Israeli Army against the territorial security and sovereignty of Lebanon. The source stated that Tunisia, which was recently the target of flagrant violation against the sanctity of its soil from the same quarter—a violation that was condemned by the international community at the UN Security Council—expresses its solidarity with the fraternal people and government of Lebanon. Tunisia denounces and strongly condemns this new aggression, which proves Israel's conceit and arrogance with regard to international measures and charters, and its intention to pursue its policy of oppression and violence.

The international community is today called upon to act quickly in taking the necessary measures to deter and put an end to the acts which Israel has been practicing with the aim of undermining all peaceful initiatives and efforts, especially since a glimmer of hope has appeared on the horizon that the Middle East dilemma may begin to be solved. An example of Israel's actions is the series of assassinations and political killings they undertook following their crushing failure to suppress the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people, which has engendered a new interest, in the international arena, in the Palestinian cause and moves toward finding a solution to it.

Kuwait

Ministry on Explosion at Parking Structure

LD0705083088 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0716 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, 7 May (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti interior minister has announced that a package exploded this morning in a parking structure in a commercial complex, leading to material damage but no casualties. An Interior Ministry spokesman said that the explosion occurred with a package placed on the first story of a parking structure in the middle of the city of Kuwait.

This is the second explosion in less than 2 weeks in different parts of the city of Kuwait, as a similar explosion occurred on 27 April near the offices of Saudi airlines, which is only a few hundred meters from the position of today's explosion. Today's explosion caused only material damage. The ceiling of the multistory parking garage and a car rental office were affected.

PDRY

Al-Bid, Delegation Depart on Visit to Cuba

LD0505100088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, left Aden yesterday at the head of a high-level party and government delegation that will pay a visit to the Republic of Cuba at the invitation of Comrade Fidel Castro, general [as heard] secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, president of the Councils of State and Ministers in the friendly Republic of Cuba. [passage omitted]

Before his departure, the secretary general made a statement to ANA in which he said: I am greatly pleased to be leading a party and government delegation to some socialist states, beginning with the friendly Republic of Cuba, in response to invitations we received from the leaders of those states. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks in Havana

EA0805201588 Aden ANA in Arabic 1356 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Havana, 7 May (ANA)—Yesterday, Friday afternoon, the official and friendly talks between Yemen and Cuba concluded. The talks were chaired by Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Comrade Fidel Castro, secretary general of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee [words indistinct] and were held at the premises of the PCC Central Committee in Havana.

At the start of the talks Comrade Castro welcomed the comrade secretary general and his delegation. Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid expressed his thanks and those of his delegation for the warm reception accorded to them. He praised the relations between the YSP and the PCC and between the two friendly peoples and countries. He stressed the common desire to continue developing those relations.

The comrade secretary general referred to the Yemeni political situation and stressed the importance of the meeting in Sanaa between the leaders of the two parts of Yemen and the signing of the agreement to set up a joint Yemeni project to exploit oil. He also noted the importance attributed by the party and government in the southern part of the homeland to the preservation of security and stability. He clarified the position of the YSP and its view of the national cause of the Yemeni people [words indistinct] as a basis for the peaceful and democratic achievement of Yemeni unity.

He explained the measures adopted by the party and government leadership to tackle the effects of the 13 January [1986] conspiracy in terms of political, economic, social, and psychological considerations. He referred to the successes already achieved in this regard. He also reviewed the nature of the party and economic tasks facing Democratic Yemen at present.

Concerning the situation in the Arabian Peninsula, the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea, the comrade secretary general stressed the importance of finding a solution to the conflict between Iraq and Iran in accordance with UN SecuritY Council Resolution 598 as well as the need for the withdrawal of military forces and naval fleets belonging to the NATO alliance from the waters of the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea.

He spoke about the uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories and referred to the importance of the reunification of the PLO and of the reestablishment of the Syrian-Palestinian alliance based on the continuing dialogue between the two sides. He said this was the correct starting point for the unification of Syrian and the Palestinian resistance in the face of Zionist aggression.

The comrade secretary general also stressed the position of the YSP and the government of Democratic Yemen on apartheid and expressed our country's absolute support for the struggle of the people in South Africa and the other African peoples against apartheid and for liberation from backwardness and subordination to imperialist monopolies.

Speaking about the international situation, the comrade secretary general praised Soviet peace initiatives and the Soviet-U.S. agreement signed in Washington to eliminate intermediate and short-range missiles in Europe. He expressed our country's optimism about the current international situation, saying it is evidence of openness in international relations. However, it must be borne in mind that there are still factors which could strain the

present situation, especially the continuation of the so-called Star Wars project by the U.S. Administration as well as the continuation of regional tensions in more than one part of the world.

The comrade secretary general reiterated our country's absolute support for the revolutionary government in Nicaragua. He condemned the hostile and provocative acts of the United States against the heroic people of Nicaragua.

Concluding his statement, the comrade secretary general reiterated the complete readiness of the party and government in Democratic Yemen to develop relations between the parties and peoples of the two friendly countries and to coordinate their positions of joint struggle in the international arena in a manner in keeping with the [words indistinct] commitments of the Yemeni and Cuban revolutions toward national liberation movements in the world; (?support) for countries of socialist tendencies; strengthening of the struggle of the peoples of the world to deepen peace; the preservation of security and stability in the different regions of the world; and the establishment of equable international relations founded on cooperation, justice, and mutual respect.

For his part, Comrade Fidel Castro reviewed the political situation in Cuba. He expressed satisfaction with Cuban-Yemeni relations and stressed Cuba's interest in strengthening and developing them further.

He reiterated the support of the PCC and the Cuban people for the peaceful policies pursued by Democratic Yemen. He condemned all the crude attempts conceived by the reactionary and imperialist forces to damage the freedom and independence of our country and destabilize it. He stressed Cuba's support for the Palestinian cause and the call for an international peace conference on the Middle East. He pointed to the need to create a broad-based front in the Arab region and to settle disputes by peaceful means.

He condemned the U.S. policy of pressure and economic blackmail against the devleoping countries, particularly the countries of Latin America. He stressed the need to set up a new international economic order in which relations between peoples are equable.

He expressed the PCC's support for the CPSU and the peaceful policy pursued by the USSR, as well as for perestroyka, which has created new forms of international relations and made important overtures for the strengthening of international openness and the achievement of world peace.

For Democratic Yemen, the talks were attended by Comrades Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister; Qasim 'Abd al-Rabb, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Higher Party Control Committee [position as received]; Umar 'Abd al-Samad, member of the Central Committee, head of the National Command of the Organization of People's Defense Committees and chairman of the Yemeni-Cuban Friendship Society; Aidah 'Ali Sa'id, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Yemeni Women's General Union; Dr Salih Muhsin al-Haj, member of the Central Committee and director of the secretary general's office; Lieutenant Colonel Muthanna Salim 'Askar, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of the General Staff; 'Abd al-Wasi Salim, minister of justice and religious trusts; Dr Sa'id Sharaf, minister of public health; Umar Husayn Sabah, head of the Africa and Latin America Section in the Central Committee Secretariat; Ahmad al-Maysari, director of the Africa and Latin America Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman Husayn, Democratic Yemen ambassador to Cuba.

On the Cuban side, the talks were attended by Comrades Osmani Cienfuegos, member of the Politburo and vice president of the Council of State; Vilma Espin, member of the Politburo and president of the Cuban Women's Federation; Lionel Soto, member and secretary of the Central Committee; Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee and foreign minister; Julio Teja, minister of public health [position as received]; Jorge Fernandez, minister of Fish industry; Col Palmarola, chief of the Foreign Relations Directorate of the Ministry of Defense; Ernesto Gomez, chief of the Middle East and North Africa Section of the Central Committee Secretariat; Ulises Estrada, director of the Middle East and North Africa Department of the Foreign Ministry; Sergio Rodriguez, Cuban ambassador to the PDRY; and (Hincora Estrada), official responsible for foreign relations of the PCC.

Further on Visit

For Cuban-source reportage on the visit to Cuba by YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid, including a welcoming by Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, and the bestowing of Cuba's Playa Giron Order on Al-Bid, see the Cuba section of the 6 May Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Meets With YAR President in Mecca

LD0505225888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2135 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Mecca, 5 May (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, received at Al-Safah Palace here tonight His Excellency Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, and the delegation accompanying him. They arrived earlier today at the Kingdom to perform the minor

pilgrimage. The meeting was attended by their royal highnesses the amirs, their excellencies the ministers, and senior officials. The YAR president and the delegation accompanying him had dinner with the custodian of the two holy mosques.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz—may God support him—and his excellency YAR president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, held a meeting to discuss bilateral issues.

King Receives Iraqi Deputy Premier Ramadan
LD0605222688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2155 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Holy Mecca, 8 May (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud—may God protect him—the custodian of the two holy mosques, received at Al-Safah Palace in holy Mecca this evening His Excellency Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister, who conveyed a verbal message from his brother, His Excellency Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; Tarrad al-Harithi, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Iraq; and 'Abd al-Wahab al-Sabbagh [name as received], Iraqi ambassador to the Kingdom.

Iraqi Deputy Premier Departs
LD0705123688 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1155 GMT 7 May 88

[Excerpt] Al-Madinah, 7 May (SPA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister, left Al-Madinah at the end of a 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia during which he was received by the custodian of the two holy Mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Petroleum Minister Urges Adherence to OPEC Rules
LD0605215888 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Mr Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, said he is amazed at those who cast doubt on the role of Saudi Arabia in OPEC, the volume of its contributions, and the strength of its commitment to the cohesion and unity of the organization.

Speaking in a statement to SPA, he added that the Kingdom is not only one of the founding countries of OPEC, but it also played a distinguished role in the formulation of the idea from its inception in the early sixties.

He said: Those who view OPEC as an international organization whose only mission is to meet to reduce production are in fact looking at the oil market with a short-sighted view and are using temporary sedatives in place of the radical solutions pursued by a country such as Saudi Arabia which is interested in permanent stability.

He added: However, the volume of the contributions of Saudi Arabia throughout OPEC's history is told by the figures, and those of the others cannot equal ours. The Kingdom has reduced its share of the market from about 10 million barrels per day in 1980 to 4.3 million barrels per day now which comes to a reduction of more than 56 percent. The Kingdom, by playing the role of the swing producer and in its continuous attempts to stabilize the market, lost more than $109 billion.

The minister of petroleum and mineral resources continued: Those who do not see the Kingdom as a developing country with commitments to its people and other international commitments because of its Islamic and Arab status are wrong and are asking of us more than we can bear. They think it is easy for a country like the Kingdom to reduce its budget by about 50 percent and then ask it for more, ignoring all considerations. However, the Kingdom has tolerated this in the past due to consideration for its international commitments.

He said: The continuous violations of and disregard for the consecutive agreements practiced by some OPEC countries, which in the end led to the collapse of the petroleum market in 1986, made necessary the personal intervention of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, who, along with the heads of the OPEC states, played the principal role in the December 1986 agreement specifying a production ceiling for different seasons of 1986 and fixed the price per barrel, of the agreed on basket, at $18.

He added: While the member-countries adhered to this agreement, during the first half of last year, supply and demand in the market became equal, and prices increased until they reached $21 per barrel at some periods. After that violations started to take their normal course, and despite continuous Saudi warnings of the consequences of continuing this course, nobody listened.

He went on to say that the Kingdom does not feel obliged to rectify the mistakes of others by reducing its production, especially inasmuch as the production of five of those countries, who voted for the reduction at the recent consultative conference, exceeds their specific quotas, according to the report the auditors submitted to the conference. There is also another country, Iran, about whose production and exports we know nothing; it did not allow the auditors to visit its facilities or examine its books as OPEC agreed.

He said: The Kingdom appreciates the efforts of the non-OPEC producing countries and thanks them for their cooperation with the organization. However, the

Kingdom believes that cooperation with these countries should be based on a barrel-for-barrel principle, because the OPEC countries have already reduced their production by more than 35 percent since 1980, while the non-OPEC countries are producing approximately at full capacity.

He pointed out that the proposal submitted to the conference by the Kingdom to equally distribute the reduction percentage within OPEC among the members is not aimed at harming the small producers within the organization. These producers are harmed very much by the violations of quotas and the decrease in prices. The proposal is aimed at making every member of the organization feel that the reduction process is a resolution that touches the interests of their people, and they had better think carefully about it, as its consequences will be shouldered by everyone even though the Kingdom is made to shoulder the greatest part of them.

Concluding his statement to SPA, Mr Hisham Nazir said: In light of these explanations, and because of the Kingdom's commitment to the continuation of solidarity and cooperation among OPEC members, the Kingdom proposes that the situation remain as it is, according to the previous resolutions of the organization. These fixed the production ceiling for different seasons of 1987, as they fixed the price per barrel for the agreed on basket at $18, hoping that the members adhere to the resolutions of the organizations until the convening of the next conference in July and that they will stop any violations.

He said he hopes they will reconsider their stances toward the Kingdom's proposals so that the conference will be able to reach a settlement with the non-OPEC producers.

Tehran Radio Charges on Turkish Forces Rebutted

LD0605034188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2235 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Riyadh 5 May (SPA)—Refuting what Radio Tehran broadcast in its 1400 newscast today, Thursday, 5 May 1988, that Turkish military personnel are delegated to preserve the internal security in the Kingdom, a responsible source stated to SPA that the claims of Radio Tehran are completely unfounded and that this news item is nothing more than another episode in the series of lies and falsifications issued by the Tehran ruling regime.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Arrives in Saudi Arabia for Pilgrimage

JN052100 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpt] This afternoon, Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived at Jeddah airport on a visit to Saudi Arabia to perform the minor pilgrimage. He was received at Jeddah International Airport by Prince Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the western region, and a number of Saudi officials. After a short rest in the Royal Pavilion, the president went to the Al-Hamra' Palace in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

Meets King Fahd

JN061242 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Brothers Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress; and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, held a brotherly meeting in Holy Mecca during which they reviewed a number of bilateral, regional, pan-Arab, Islamic, and international issues of interest to the two fraternal countries.

Departs for YAR

JN061907 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 88

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, returned home with God's care and protection at 1530 today after performing the minor pilgrimage and visiting the tomb of the greatest prophet, the peace and blessings of God be upon him, and the prophet's holy mosque in Al-Madinah. [passage omitted]

Joint Exploration Agreement Signed With PDRY

LD0505191788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] A project for joint exploration by the two parts of the Yemeni homeland was signed this morning in Sanaa. Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, signed on behalf of the southern part of the homeland, and Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, signed on behalf of the northern part. The text of the agreement is as follows:

By the faith of the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland in Yemeni unity; with commitment to the objectives of the eternal revolutions of 26 September and 14 October; in fulfillment of the struggle of the Yemeni people and their martyrs to construct a united and independent Yemen; on the basis of the aspirations of our Yemeni peoples' masses for the achievement of Yemeni unity, both of its land and people; in realization of our historic responsibility to the Arab community and of the importance of Yemeni unity as a serious and fundamental step toward complete Arab unity; in fulfillment of the national efforts made to achieve the longed

for objective of national unity and of the determination of the leaderships of the two parts to boost unionist activities to advanced stages and to bring closer the day of unity, since unity is the destiny and future of our people in the two parts;

In the course of practical steps taken to realize national unity by peaceful and democratic means and to avoid anything that might adversely affect the security, peace, and stability of both parts of the homeland; to achieve the complete security, stability, development, progress, and strength of the Yemeni nation, the determination to eliminate all obstacles on the path of Yemeni unity and to overcome everything we have inherited including what was created by the loathsome colony and imamate; to consolidate and safeguard unionist principles in various fields within the framework of brotherly cooperation and understanding, since steps toward unification have given rise to a climate of unification on both the national and individual levels as well as certain unionist practices on the part of the people and government; on the basis of the agreements and statements signed by the leaderships and officials of the two parts, and in continuation of unionist contacts and meetings, the leaderships of the two parts, represented by Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, during their meeting in Sanaa from 3-4 May 1988, agreed upon the following:

1. To follow up unionist steps and to complete the implementation of what has been previously agreed upon between the two parts in all spheres and to activate the functions of the Supreme Yemeni Council, the joint ministerial committee, and the current unionist committees of the two parts.

2. To hasten the accomplishment of duties entrusted to the Secretariat of the Supreme Yemeni Council in the last Ta'izz meeting in preparing a timetable for drafting a united state constitution and submitting it to the people's councils of the two parts and then launching it for referendum in accordance with the unionist agreements between the two parts.

3. To establish a unified political organization committee as stipulated in the 19th article of the Tripoli statement to prove our true intentions, which will interpret unionist steps until the two sides, through joint efforts, arrive at united political action, in verification of the agreements, and the committee has completed its functions within the shortest possible period.

4. To complete the efforts of the leaderships of the two parts to contain and remedy the effects of the 13 January 1986 events and to cooperate in establishing security and stability firmly in both parts of Yemen by all means possible.

5. In view of the importance of the economic integration of the two parts of the homeland and the development and strengthening of current economic activity on a unified Yemeni level after the steps that have been taken to establish a joint project for exploration of natural resources, the following has been agreed upon:

a. To establish a joint exploration project between the governorates of Marib and Shabwah covering an area of 2,200 square kms.

b. A joint topographic committee is to undertake to define the area of the joint exploration project on the basis of its natural composition.

c. The area of the joint exploration project is to be devoid of military positions of the two parts in conformity with the commitment undertaken in the presence of the two chiefs of general staff on 19 January 1985.

d. The oil ministers of the two parts are to take the necessary measures for the implementation of the project including exploration, technical, financial, and administrative arrangements and other measures necessary for economic investment.

e. This joint project confirms the determination of the leaderships of the two parts in their total adherence to Yemeni unity and the unity of their territories and the rejection of any division or any border. This agreement does not under any circumstances define the sections of the two parts or draw a border between them, nor does it represent an acceptance of what was left behind by the loathsome colonialists and the imamate through their evil deeds, the objective of which was to deepen division.

6. The leaderships of the two parts are committed to implementing what has been mentioned here and to overcome all obstacles they may face during the implementation of this agreement.

This was signed in the capital, Sanaa, on 4 May 1988.

'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee; Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

Saddam Interviewed on War, Missiles, Arab Ties

JN070949 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has held Iran responsible for the foreign presence in the Arabian Gulf. He said: The Iranians are responsible for the U.S. entrance into the region in this way and under these circumstances. The president stressed that the true imminent danger to the Arabian Gulf states and Iraq comes from Iranian aggression and that priority should be given to weakening and ending Iranian aggression. This came in an interview with the president conducted by [Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR editor] journalist and writer Sana' al-Sa'id published in the Iraqi papers today.

President Saddam Husayn described Saudi Arabia's step to sever relations with Iran as daring and courageous. He said that Iraq lauds the Saudi stand and added that all Arabs and Muslims should follow suit. Muslims and Arabs can refer to objective evidence and the laws of the contemporary age to sever relations with Iran, the president said. He added that all heavenly and earthly laws give the Arabs and Muslims excuses to sever relations with expansionist, aggressive, evil Iran.

The president affirmed that the 650-km Al-Husayn missiles and the 900-km Al-'Abbas missiles are Iraqi-made and that the specifications for the Soviet Scud- B missiles are not identical to those of the Iraqi missiles in terms of range. He said that the basis for Iraqi development is the Iraqi brain and conscience and added that foreigners do not teach us how to produce weapons. He affirmed that foreigners do not participate in the military or civil industries and that all inventions are Iraqi.

President Saddam Husayn said that the liberation of Al-Faw is a prominent phenomenon in Arab military history. The liberation shed light on Arab capabilities as well as on individual Arab ability in the 8-year-old battles. He affirmed that the liberation of Al-Faw is not separated from Iraqi capability. It is a high indicator that cannot be concealed from sight or insight, Saddam Husayn added. He said that the liberation of Al-Faw expresses the nation's capability and affirms that this nation will regain its lost rights when the factors of enlightenment and a better life become mature in its conscience and mind and when other requirements become available.

President Saddam Husayn said that Iraq decided the battle against Iran when Iran deviated from the path of truth. He added that it has become clear that Iran's course is one of expansion and aggression. That course is not targeted against Iraq only; many world countries have suffered and are now suffering from it, the president said.

Saddam affirmed that Iraq is defending its rights and the Arab nation's security while Iran is aggressive and expansionist, harboring evil toward Iraq, the Arab nation, and all Muslims.

President Saddam Husayn said that the battle is decided when one of the two parties achieves its strategic objectives, and Iraq's strategic objective is to safeguard itself and, from its position, to defend the Arab nation's honor, security, and values. Meanwhile, Iran seeks to expand, building its empire under religious guise. The party that fails to achieve its objective will be the loser.

The following is the text of the interview:

Journalist: Mr President, observers have always cast doubts on the ability of either Iraq or Iran to achieve a military settlement of the war. However, the Al-Faw battle has proved the contrary. I ask you, Mr President, whether you believe that Iraq has actually decided the battle militarily in its favor. This is obvious, but I want to be enlightened by your own viewpoint.

The president: Regardless of what had been said, we are now facing new tangible facts. We will not tire ourselves drawing conclusions about what was said in the past. In our view, Iraq has decided the battle in its favor since Iran deviated from the path of right. The criterion for determining winners in this age, and one of the basic factors pointing to the victorious party, is the extent to which each of the warring parties is associated with right.

It has become clear that Iran's policy is one of aggression and hostility. This policy is not directed against Iraq alone. Many countries are suffering from this policy. The Iranian aggression is extended to many places, many countries, and many situations. In the modern age, such hostility toward peoples' conscience can never achieve any serious result, or at least any of the results at which this hostility is aimed—namely, expansion and firming the expansion.

So let us say that this is Iraq defending right, its position, and the security of the Arab nation in line with its responsibilities, while Iran, on the other hand, is an aggressive expansionist country that wants evil for Iraq, the Arab nation, and indeed all Muslims. Decisiveness is determined by the extent to which each party achieves its strategic goals. As I said, our strategic goal is to safeguard Iraq and to defend the security, honor, and values of the Arab nation from our position. Iran wants expansion to build an empire under cover of religion. The party that fails to acheive its goals is the defeated party, and the party that achieves its goals is the victorious party. That is how we see things.

Journalist: Mr President, if Iran continues its aggression and adherence to the war, does Iraq have new cards, I mean new arms to deter Iran and stop its aggression, especially since we have seen the Al-Husayn and then the Al-'Abbas missiles. Are there new arms?

The president: If we asses matters on the basis of the intentions and wishes that exist in the minds of the expansionists in Iran, then we can say that the Iranian aggression will continue. In any case, the Iranian regime can pursue the war and the hostility as long as it can convince the Iranian popular circles to assume the results of the prolongation of the war on the social, economic, political, and military levels. In our assessment, the Iranian people now realize that they are being slaughtered without cause and without any result being attained. As for whether there are new weapons, we are confident that time will show what new and effective elements there are, whether in terms of weapons or in terms of Iraqi economic, political, popular, and military capabilities in general.

Journalist: Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told me 2 days ago that the liberation of Al-Faw was a step toward the liberation of Jerusalem. May I ask the president if such a step to liberate Jerusalem can be undertaken and if the president would like to undertake it?

The president: To begin with, any action to liberate Jerusalem is an honor for every Arab and Muslim as well as a hope cherished by every Muslim or Arab. I can explain Brother Abu 'Ammar's words as follows: The crux of the issue lies in briefly answering the question on how Jerusalem was lost. By answering this question we can understand the connection between the liberation of Al-Faw and the return of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was lost and continues to be lost by the Arabs after propaganda and circumstances had convinced some Arabs that they had no option but leave Jerusalem lost for some time or all time. This means that some Arabs believe that insistence on right alone is insufficient to restore it, but there should be other elements. We do not generally differ over this analysis and trend, but the difference focuses on the impact of every factor in giving predominance to conviction and suitable decision.

We all believe in the importance of winning world public opinion over to our side, but should this be given first priority over winning the national public opinion? We do not believe so. Therefore, we should first win over public opinion, that is, to first win the opinion of the Iraqis in Iraq, the Egyptians in Egypt, the Jordanians in Jordan, the Syrians in Syria, and so forth in Kuwait, Algeria, and the other Arab countries. Once we win our Arab people's opinion and once these people act in solidarity with our rights, public opinion will gradually change through this and other factors.

Hence, we believe that Jerusalem was lost and continues to be lost because those directly involved in this issue are still incapable of levying maximum energies in a manner that makes it possible to regain Jerusalem by any political or military means.

Therefore, the liberation of Al-Faw as an Arab event in the modern age is considered a prominent development in Arab military history. This development shed light on the abilities of the Arabs as well as their abilities in the 8-year-long battles. Hence, the liberation of Al-Faw is not dissociated from the Iraqi capability, which begins from the child's conviction at school up to the conviction of the woman who looks after the house and improves morale for the father, son, and husband while they fight at the front. This is how I understand Abu 'Ammar's words. The liberation of Al-Faw is a strong indicator which we cannot hide from. It expresses the nation's capability and no one differs over that.

Consequently, the nation will restore the lost right when the factors of enlightenment and better life mature in its conscience and mind and when the other requirements become available.

The journalist: Mr President, following the recent honorable Al-Faw battle, do you think that the war may end this year, especially since some observers believe so?

The president: I will not fall into the trap of fixing dates for an end to the war because it is our plan to enter the war as part of our life. At the same time, we do not give up hope and work as if the war would end at any moment. We act responsibly toward these concepts as if the war would continue on the one hand, and as if peace is imminent on the other. Therefore, I cannot specify a time for the end of the war, but state that it will end when the aggressor fails to achieve his aims.

The journalist: Can rapprochement between the two superpowers following the recent Geneva agreement on Afghanistan lead to an end to the Iraq-Iran war or to their barter over this war in order to strike other bargains?

The president: When the Iranians and Iraqis agree to end the war, no other side can make it continue. This is a general law. However, the big powers or the two superpowers can help expedite an end to the war or prolong it. Therefore, their agreement to resolve world regional issues is a positive development. Resolving any regional conflict between the two superpowers will inevitably reflect positively on the other regional problems, including the war.

Journalist: This means that you have no doubts that the two superpowers might barter on the Iraq-Iran war. Afghanistan, for example, is separate because they actually wanted to end the Afghan problem in a deal.

The president: Barter occurs when the conflicting parties follow this or that agreement of the bartering parties. Iraq is not under the wing of any party. Therefore, no party can barter our portion.

Journalist: Mr President, what about the Saudi step in breaking off its relations with Iran. Are you looking forward to the other Arab countries in the region following the Saudi example, especially since some countries such as Oman, the UAE, and Qatar are adopting a conciliatory policy toward Iran?

The president: The Saudi step is bold and courageous. We praise and take pride in this stand. We believe that every Arab and Muslim is called upon to follow this example. Every Arab and Muslim can base breaking off relations on material facts according to the laws of our modern age. He also can base such a step on God's laws. All heavenly and earthly laws make it necessary for every Arab and Muslim to boycott the aggressive, evil, and expansionist Iran.

Journalist: But are you not worried about the conciliatory policy of some of the Gulf states, especially since they are countries in the region that are closely following the developments and must positively support brotherly Iraq?

The president: In our view, every Arab and Muslim, when left to choose freely without pressure, chooses to stand by Iraq against Iran. If it politically appears for some party that some step is better than another or less important than another, then this is something associated with our circumstances and situation as an Arab nation. Anyway, the Arab brothers you are talking about are not the biggest or most powerful Arab countries. Without giving justifications, we always take into consideration and understand every step in light of its relation to intentions, its circumstances, and the party that makes it, and whether this step be forward, backward, or half and half.

Journalist: As regards the Middle East problem, do you think there is any hope the international conference will be held this year?

The president: In order to say whether the international conference will or will not be held this year, we are supposed to be a basic party. We are basically speaking about our will. Journalists or political writers may arrive at conclusions and say, yes it will be held or, no it will not be held. However, from our position of responsibility, we cannot determine beause we are not a party with a weight to decide whether the conference will or will not be held this year. But we generally feel there is a considerable sense of the importance of solving the complicated regional issues. The freer from the influence of the superpowers the directly concerned parties are, the easier solutions can be attained. The Middle East problem, or let us say the Arab-Zionist conflict, is a complicated issue. Its parties, in some form or another, fall under many influences, whether these be national, local, or foreign. Anyway, we hope that we will end up with a peace that maintains the rights and dignity of the Arabs.

Journalist: Mr President, in light of your very strong and unique relationship with Jordan, why do you not try to remove the sensitivities and the unresolved problems between Jordan and the PLO? These problems still exist and are clear, although the two parties try to put them aside and avoid talking about them.

The president: In general, our relationship with Jordan—king, people, and government—is as you described it. Our relationship with the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat is also fraternal and based on confidence. I believe you can conclude that we, as Arabs and in accordance with our known course, spare no method to deepen any interaction and convergence toward what is best between one Arab and another as well as among all Arabs. In our assessment, the fact that the Arab nation is one nation does not rule out possible problems among the Arabs. Some problems might be complicated on different levels. We have to expect problems because of the sensitivity of the sons of the one nation toward each other. We are not foreigners toward each other.

Therefore, two factors live in this nation. Sensitivities are possible between any Arab country and another as a result of very minor issues, which would not constitute a state of sensitivity between two or more foreign countries. However, among the Arabs such minor issues could be seriously reflected in their policies. At the same time, being one nation we can resolve these issues simply and at any moment.

Journalist: Mr President, we will return to the Gulf area and the current U.S. presence. Do you believe that the U.S. presence constitutes an imbalance between the two superpowers in the region?

The president: There was no balance in the influence and in the military presence in the Gulf between the two superpowers before the U.S. presence. It is known, in other words, that the U.S. influence in the Gulf area is stronger than the Soviet influence in terms of the balance of power. Despite this, it is also known that the U.S. presence has increased in this manner. We do not believe that the U.S. presence in terms of its strength and weakness is our first priority at this stage. The responsibility for the Americans' entrance in this way and under these circumstances is shouldered by the Iranians and their reckless, suspect behavior.

At the same time, the Americans entered in light of a Kuwaiti request for the United States to protect their ships and oil tankers from Iranian attacks. When the Americans rejected the request, the Kuwaitis resorted to the Soviets who accepted. When the Americans knew that the Soviets had accepted, they came to the region. When the Americans came under these circumstances, they began to increase their presence gradually until it reached the present level.

Journalist: Is it possible to adopt the Soviet viewpoint on purging the region from all foreign fleets, or is it an impractical step?

The president: In our opinion, the true imminent danger to the Gulf countries and to Iraq is not the U.S. fleet but Iranian aggression. We cannot consider the issue of Soviet and U.S. fleets as well as other issues as having priority. Priority should be given to weakening and ending the Iranian aggression. We will not preoccupy ourselves with any behavior that does not move toward this aim.

Journalist: What about arms? Iraq's foreign minister left for Brazil. It is said that it is a tour to reach an understanding in various fields. Could the tour aim at concluding military deals, particularly since Brazil is considered an open arms market for all world countries, and it recently secured an arms deal with Libya? Is there an item on arms deals on the agenda?

The president: In all cases, economic and trade dealings between Iraq and Brazil have been continuing since 1974. They are of a good size and developing. Regardless of whether Brazil has weapons that we need, in general our shopping list from foreign markets has been seriously reduced because we depend in this on our intrinsic capabilities.

Journalist: It was said 4 years ago that 80 percent of Iraqi weapons are Soviet. Is this still the percentage, or has it changed in light of the recent changes and Iraq's great military industries?

The president: I have not preoccupied myself with memorizing figures and the percentage of Soviet or French arms in Iraq. However, in general I know that the size of our procurement from Soviet arms has been very large and effective in the building of our forces. It is still large and effective in the building of our Armed Forces. At the same time, as you know, the Iraqi military industries are growing in quality and quantity. When the Iraqi military industries grow in quality and quantity, it means that our shopping lists from this or that international side will be reduced.

Journalist: Mr President, the Iraqi military industries are an object of admiration, but I wonder if there is any Western or Soviet technology that is assisting Iraq in the field of armament, or whether it is 100 percent Iraqi knowhow.

The president: Such reports were published in some newspapers, including Western papers and regrettably some Arab papers. They are due to lack of self-confidence or other reasons unknown to me. But in general you can be sure that the Iraqi intellect and the Iraqi conscience are the basis of all this development. Foreigners do not teach us how to produce weapons. Egypt knows this and the Egyptian citizen is first among those who rules out such a suspicion because the foreigners teach the production of weapons only to those who are actually their industrial partners. You know that there are no foreign shares in our civilian and military industries. Foreigners do not teach even the civilian industries as they should be taught unless they are partners. The fact that they are not participating in the military or the civilian industries in Iraq means that we do not have foreign partners. Hence, all creations are Iraqi.

Journalist: Patience and humility do not make you glance at your watch and say: O Sana'. I know that time is up because there is the Ramadan fast-breaking meal and I have not [as received] taken up much time. This means I have to end the meeting quickly.

The president: Before the fast-breaking meal I will meet with some military commanders and stay with them until we finish our work after the meal.

Journalist: I mentioned the story of weapons because when the Al-Husayn missile was fired, Western circles said it was not a local missile, but a developed Scud-B missile that the Soviets had given to Iraq. It was also reported that the Al-'Abbas missile was perhaps a developed type of the Soviet SS-12 missile. However, I met with some Soviet officials who visit Cairo from time to time and asked them this question. They said: We did not participate in any technology and did not give Iraq any such missiles. How true are the reports that the Soviets gave Scud-B missiles to Iraq?

The president: The Scud-B missiles are known and we have a number of them. The Scud-B is a Soviet missile whose range is 270-280 km. Now we have practically proved that we are striking with a range of 650 km. We also announced that our missile's range has been raised to 900 km. Such ranges are not within Scud-B range. They do not apply to the Scud-B specifications indicated in books.

Accordingly, and regardless of anything or any words or details, this is the reality. We possess a missile whose range is 650 km and we called it Al-Husayn and not Scud-B. We now also possess a missile that we have tested successfully. Its range is 900 km and we called it Al-'Abbas. These are the tangible facts we have and they do not apply to the Soviet Scud-B missile.

Journalist: One last question. What is your comment on the recent attempt at reconciliation between the PLO and Syria?

The president: We do not view any positive relationship between any Arab and another with suspicion unless the premeditated intentions call for suspicion according to our interpretation. We trust the PLO and its chairman. Therefore, we believe that the new relationship must be an effort based on how this or that Arab side becomes better qualified to face what harms the Arab nation or what directly harms that Arab side.

Journalist: Mr President, what can you say about Egypt?

The president: You know Egypt's place in our hearts and consciences as Arabs. When I speak as an Arab, I only view every Arab citizen as equal in value with his other Arab brothers regardless of the fact that he is in Iraq or Egypt, except when one of them is ahead of the other along the path of sublime objectives. We will then give him the mark he deserves. This is the general criterion in the way we view the Arabs everywhere. When the Arab nation's basic power exists in a place called Egypt, it would be natural for me to view this place with greater appreciation than I view any other place where the Arabs are less in number than those in Egypt. This is first my position as an Arab and an official in accordance with the pan-Arab principles in which I believe. But as Saddam Husayn, who was in Egypt, I have an additional factor which increases my love and appreciation for Egypt—land, people, president, and government—for direct human factors which were, still, and will continue to affect me positively toward Egypt.

Journalist: There should be a visit to Egypt after the Al-Faw victory. We want to be the first to say that President Saddam Husayn will visit Egypt.

The president: You know that what concerns Egypt and every honorable Arab now is that the Arabs get out of this ordeal with a white face, as the proverb says here and in Egypt as well. Therefore, as long as my presence in Iraq facilitates this objective, it would be better for the people of Egypt, the president of Egypt, and the brothers in Egypt if I stay here. My longing for Egypt existed and will continue to exist even when I visit it, that is, I will continue to long for it even when I visit it. But the war circumstances have requirements and the most important thing we should do at present is to look after the requirements that enhance Iraqi capabilities so that Iraq will continue to hold out until the last moment, God willing.

Journalist: Is there an exclusive news item we can publish in this regard?

The president: My warm greetings to Egypt—land, sky, people, water, president, and government.

President Receives PLO Chairman 'Arafat

JN071216 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT
7 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

During the meeting, Yasir 'Arafat presented to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn a gift consisting of Palestinian handicrafts on the pleasant occasion of the president's birthday. They also discussed the situation in the Arab arena, the developments of the valiant uprising being staged by the Palestinian Arab people, and the requirements of bolstering this uprising in a manner that ensures the Palestinian people's attainment of their legitimate rights.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Ramadan Departs for Saudi Arabia With Message

JN061048 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1027 GMT
6 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left for Saudi Arabia at noon today.

In a statement to INA, Ramadan said that he will deliver a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother, King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, on the advanced relations that exist between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said he is satisfied with the continued development of bilateral relations and the Iraqi leadership's eagerness to promote these relations in all fields in the service of pan-Arab interests.

Taha Yasin Ramadan explained that the visit is within the framework of consultations and coordination among the Arab brothers to enhance Arab solidarity and bolster Arab efforts that seek to unite the Arab stand against the Khomeyniites and the Zionists, the enemies of the Arab nation who covet the Arab land and its resources and have designs against the future of its generations and its development.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he will discuss with the Saudi brothers bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war, and Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause and the developments in the popular uprising in the occupied territories.

Statement on Return

JN072009 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT
7 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, returned here today following a brief visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he conveyed during the visit a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz containing the appreciation of Iraq—leadership and people—for the stands taken by fraternal Saudi Arabia and its deep satisfaction over the advanced bilateral relations in various spheres. The message, Ramadan added, also contained Iraq's serious desire to exert continuous and persistent efforts with the aim of supporting and bolstering these relations.

He went on to say that he also conveyed to King Fahd the appreciation of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and that of the Iraqi leadership and people for the responsible pan-Arab Saudi stand which took the form of severing its ties with Iran because of the latter's continued pursuit of aggressive policies and also because of its efforts to violate the national security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said that this principled pan-Arab position confirms the truth regarding the pan-Arab stands that must be emulated by all Arab states.

Taha Yasin Ramadan described the talks he held with His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, as very positive. He affirmed that the two sides hold identical views on bilateral relations and the need to strengthen pan-Arab stands in the face of the Arab nation's enemies, be they Khomeyniites or Zionists. The first deputy prime minister said that His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz stressed to him that fraternal bilateral relations will continue to be bolstered under all circumstances. He added that the custodian of the two holy mosques asked him to convey his greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as well as the pride and satisfaction of Saudi Arabia over the advanced and developed level of bilateral relations with Iraq, in addition to Saudi Arabia's eagerness to further expand and develop these relations.

The first deputy prime minister indicated that His Majesty Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz reiterated Saudi Arabia's support and backing for Iraq in its sacred defense of its sovereignty and territory and also on its serious endeavors to establish a just and durable peace. He added that the king also indicated that Iran's continued rejection of peace efforts and its continuation of the war confirm its aggressive and expansionist policies.

Ramadan went on to say that the custodian of the two holy mosques reiterated his congratulations for the feats of heroism forged there by the Iraqi Armed Forces which are a source of pride for all Arabs.

The first deputy prime minister was received upon his return to Baghdad by Hasan 'Ali, Regional Command member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and secretary general of the Progressive, National, and Patriotic Front; and a number of cabinet ministers.

'Aziz Returns From Brazil, Makes Statement

JN061806 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad today after a visit to Brazil, leading a delegation from the Arab seven-member committee to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory. In a statement to INA, 'Aziz said that the delegation acquainted the Brazilian officials with the developments in the Palestinian issue, the brave uprising of the Palestinian Arab people, and the bases viewed by the Arab League to achieve a just, permanent, comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. He expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks there. He said that the Brazilian side understood the Arab stand.

Tariq 'Aziz pointed out that during the visit he held official talks with a number of Brazilian officials on the developing bilateral relations, the continuous Iranian aggression against Iraq, and the ongoing deliberations at the UN Security Council vis-a-vis the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. He added that the talks were characterized by cordiality and understanding.

The delegation accompanying Tariq 'Aziz comprised PLO representative 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Clovis Maqsud, head of the Arab League office in New York.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,168

JN051742 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 May 88

[Communique No 3,168 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 May]

[Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. To deprive the Iranian regime of its oil supplies, whose revenues are used for its aggressive purposes, our heroic Air Force planes this morning launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After dealing it an accurate, effective blow, all our planes returned safely to base. Praise be to God.

2. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector engaged enemy units in front of them and achieved the following:

The killing and the wounding of 40 scoundrels, the destruction of a bulldozer, a shovel [preceding word in English], a 106-mm gun, and 2 infantry positions, the burning of 4 vehicles, and the blowing up of an ammunition dump.

3. Seven infantry positions were destroyed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, and an infantry position was destroyed and its personnel were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Three enemy soldiers were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. An enemy observation post was destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector, and a raft was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

6. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors:

The killing of two enemy soldiers, the destruction of an enemy boat on the east bank of the Shatt al-'Arab, the destruction of two infantry positions and an observation post, the burning of a vehicle, and the blowing up of two ammunition dumps.

7. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 May 1988

Communique No 3,169

JN061716 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 88

[Communique No 3,169 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. One of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked a group of scoundrels, killing 15 and wounding others. In other positions in the same sector, two enemy scoundrels were killed, three ammunition dumps were blown up, and four vehicles were damaged.

2. In the II Army Corps central sector, six enemy gun emplacements, two machineguns, and one observation post were destroyed; three ammunition dumps were blown up; and one enemy soldier was killed.

In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, two tanks and one observation post were set on fire and destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

3. In the IV Corps sector east of Maysan, one enemy soldier was killed and one vehicle was set on fire.

In the V Army Corps northern sector, two enemy soldiers were killed.

4. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, two infantry positions and one gun emplacement were destroyed, one vehicle was set ablaze, and two enemy soldiers were killed.

In the VII Army Corps sector, three different gun emplacements and a water tanker were destroyed and four ammunition dumps were blown up.

5. A number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to the rear.

6. This morning, the criminal Iranian regime shelled Darband-i Khan village with long-range artillery. As a result, a number of civilian were wounded and civilian property was damaged. Such cowardly acts represent a premeditated violation of one of the bases in accordance with which Iraq stopped the bombardment of Iranian cities. These acts express the Iranian rulers' desire to reignite the cities' war. They will not go without severe punishment at the appropriate time.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 May 1988

Spokesman Denies Shelling

JN071857 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1805 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 May (INA)—The Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims regarding the alleged Iraqi artillery shelling of the cities of Baneh, Sar Dasht, or any other Iranian city since 20 April, reiterating that what has been claimed by Iran in this regard is entirely groundless.

In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman said: The Iranian claims are no more than a link in the series of lies and fabrications propagated by the Iranian news media which falsify facts. We and the world news media have become accustomed to these lies and fabrications. The spokesman added: These cheap means cannot cover up for the crimes being perpetrated by the Iranian rulers against our innocent citizens through their shelling of our secure cities. Concluding his statement, the spokesman affirmed that the Iranian claims in this regard are entirely baseless.

Communique No 3,170

JN071920 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1747 GMT 7 May 88

[Communique No 3,170 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. One scoundrel was killed, one gun and one infantry position were destroyed, one vehicle was burned and destroyed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector. One 106-mm gun and one enemy machine gun were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

2. Three enemy infantry positions, one observation post, and one machinegun were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. Also, one shovel [preceding word in English] was destroyed, two vehicles were burned and destroyed, and four ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. Two enemy personnel were killed, two hovercrafts and one machinegun were destroyed, and two vehicles were burned and destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Furthermore, six infantry positions, one machine gun, and one observation post were destroyed; one shovel was burned and destroyed; and three ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

4. The criminal Iranian enemy used long-range artillery today to shell the hamlet of Darband-i Khan. The shelling injured civilians and damaged civilian property. This deliberate violation of one of the principles according to which we stopped our bombing of Iranian cities confirms the desire of the evil Iranian regime to reignite the war of the cities. This regime must face the dire consequences of these actions—the consequences which will be displayed at the appropriate time.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 May 1988

Communique No 3,171

JN081737 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 May 88

[Communique No 3,171 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. In exercise of our firm and legitimate right to sever the Iranian regime's oil lifeline and prevent it from exploiting its oil revenues for aggression, aircraft of our daring Air Froce flew two successful raids against two maritime targets, one large and the other medium, near the Shaykh Sho'eyb [Lavan Island] terminal last night.

After our daring hawks dealt two accurate and effective blows, they safely returned to base with their aircraft under God's protection.

2. A patrol from one of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector clashed with an enemy patrol. Our brave men wiped out the patrol's personnel and left their bodies littering the no man's land. Elsewhere in the sector, four various positions were destroyed, two scoundrels were killed, and two ammunition dumps were blown up.

3. Three ammunition dumps were blown up, two gun emplacements were destroyed, and two enemy personnel were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, our units also killed three scoundrels, destroyed one machinegun and seven various positions, and blew up four ammunition dumps.

4. Through their effective attacks, our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan blew up eight ammunition dumps and destroyed a number of infantry positions.

Our units on the VII Army Corps front also inflicted the following losses on the enemy: the blowing up of four ammunition dumps, the destruction of one heavy machinegun, the killing of four scoundrels, and the destruction of two gun emplacements, one infantry position, and one observation post.

5. A number of Iranian military men took refuge with our forward positions. They were evacuated safely to the rear lines.

6. The criminal Iranian regime shelled the township of Darband-i Khan with long-range artillery today causing casualties and damaging citizens' properties. These evil actions constitute a deliberate violation of one of the bases under which Iraq halted its shelling of Iranian cities. These crimes against our people will not go unpunished at the proper time, and the tyrannical Iranian rulers will suffer from that punishment.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 May 1988

Peres Holds Initial Talks With Hungarian Leaders

TA0805190588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, left secretly for Hungary this morning and is now holding initial meetings in Budapest with Hungarian leaders. The foreign minister is accompanied by Dr Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general; Nimrod Novik, Peres' political adviser; and Uri Savir, his office director. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren gives us details of this special political mission:

This is the first time an Israeli foreign minister has visited Hungary. Shim'on Peres left this morning for Budapest under a heavy cloud of secrecy. Only the prime minister and the foreign minister's closest aides were aware of this important political mission. The aim of the trip is to hold initial talks on Hungarian soil by a senior Israeli official with Hungarian leaders. Hungary, like other countries in the East bloc, except Romania, severed diplomatic relations with Israel following the 6-Day War. Hungary and Israel recently agreed to open interest offices, but formal diplomatic relations were not resumed. It is reasonable to assume that the Soviet Union knew about and silently agreed with the visit.

Hungary, unlike the rest of the East bloc, is considered an open country. The economic system permits a certain level of private initiative. There are commercial and tourism relations between Israel and Hungary, but Hungary is undergoing an economic crisis. It can be assumed that one of the reasons it is strengthening relations with Israel is to improve its image in the United States.

To repeat, Shim'on Peres is currently holding initial meetings in Budapest. Tomorrow he will leave for Madrid to meet with Soviet officials in the framework of the Socialist International.

Peres Views Contacts With Europeans, Soviets

TA0705203288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, is leaving for Europe tomorrow to meet with Soviet representatives and Dr Mustafa Khalil, one of President Mubarak's confidants, during the Socialist International deliberations in Madrid. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren spoke with the foreign minister today.

[Begin recording] [Goren] What is the message you are conveying to European countries at a time when our relations with them have not been at their best?

[Peres] I have several messages. I will tell them that if they want to sway Israel they should persuade rather than use pressure. I will say that any pressure will only unite us against them. If they want a dialogue, though, fine. I will strictly warn them against pressures. Second, I will say: Gentlemen, you have constantly pressured Israel. What have you achieved on the Arab side? If the Arabs do not understand that Israel's security needs are no less important, even ideologically speaking, than the Palestinians' demand for self-determination, there is nothing we can discuss. There will be no Israeli partners to negotiations.

[Goren] Do you also intend to use your trip for meetings with Soviet elements?

[Peres] From experience I know that if there are Soviets there, and I believe there will be, contacts will be made.

[Goren] Next you will meet with President Reagan. Do you view this meeting as a last opportunity, before elections in both Israel and the United States, to promote the peace process?

[Peres] Regarding timing, this is the situation indeed. We heard only today that Secretary Shultz may want to return here. I attach a great deal of importance to our relations with the Soviet Union and have great confidence in our friendship with the United States. It is worthwhile making another effort to see whether relations with the USSR can be resumed, the Jewish issue handled, and the cause of peace promoted. [end recording]

Further on Attempted Deportation of 'Awwad

Pazner Reacts To Expulsion

TA0605182788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Controversy is growing over the decision to expel Palestinian activist Mubarak 'Awwad. A group of Israelis with American citizenship met the U.S. consul general in Jerusalem, Phil Wilcox, and demanded that the United States intervene at the highest level. The consul general said he met with the American ambassador, Thomas Pickering, this morning. Pickering also held discussions with Israeli Foreign Ministry officials.

Another group of Israelis, including lawyers and university lecturers, have set up a defense committee for 'Awwad who, through his lawyer, reaffirmed his belief in nonviolent struggle which, he says, places a challenge before Israel. According to 'Awwad, the Israelis and Palestinians have to recognize each other, and only thus could Israel be accepted in the Middle East. He was sure the High Court of Justice would not accept the government position which, he claims, was dictated by the hysteria of Israeli extremists.

Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner, says 'Awwad played a major role in the recent rioting in the territories. Pazner told reporter David Esing that it is necessary to expel Mubarak 'Awwad.

[Begin recording] [Pazner] Because of his activities Mr Mubarak 'Awwad caused real harm to the security of the State of Israel and to public order here, by his activities. He was, in the last few months, one of the main brains behind violent disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and under the cover of a nonviolent office, he was one of the people who incited to violence against Israel and against those moderate Arab Palestinians who want to live in peace here. This is why it has become imperative to expel a man who was here illegally. I want to remind you that since November 1987, Mr Mubarak 'Awwad has no right to stay in Israel because his visa has expired.

[Esing] But Mr Pazner, Mubarak 'Awwad says he stands for nonviolence, that he is against violence, and he preaches peaceful coexistence. Where has he been violent?

[Pazner] Between what he says and what he does there is an immense gulf, and I will tell you what he has done. For example, he was one of the people who prepared the last leaflet of 15 April 1988, which included directives for violent and hostile activity against the state, and I quote: To strike painful blows at the fascist entity. Mr Mubarak 'Awwad also made it clear that he sees us as brutal occupying forces, and calls, I quote: To use rocks and petrol bombs to warn all the enemies, since every blow at the body of the enemy brings us closer to the great victory, and so forth and so on. Where is here the nonviolence? Here you have a man which has called repeatedly for violent action, and who has said publicly that he supports the aim of the PLO, which is armed struggle against the existence of the State of Israel.

[Esing] Mubarak 'Awwad is an American citizen. The U.S. State Department has been actively lobbying with Israel not to expel him. Ambassador Pickering is active now. Is there not a danger that this could lead to a deterioration in Israeli-American affairs?

[Pazner] I do not think so. I think, with all due respect, everybody realizes that we are a sovereign and independent country who has to take care of its interests and of the security of its citizens. And of course we always hear, with great friendship, what the Americans have to say to us. But in the end of course, we are making our own decisions, based on those interests. Those interests—I have to make it clear—request today that Mr Mubarak 'Awwad be expelled out of Israel, and cannot continue his harmful operation in this country. [end recording]

'Awwad on Hunger Strike

TA0705193388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Dr Mubarak 'Awwad, who was issued an order of deportation from Israel, is on a hunger strike at the Jerusalem detention facility. 'Awwad is protesting, so he says, against the fabric of slanders conjured up against him. This is reported by our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov. 'Awwad's confidants told our correspondent that in reaction to the hunger strike, 'Awwad's mattress and other bedspreads were taken from him, apparently to force him to stop striking.

In reaction to these claims, Chief Inspector Rafi Levi, the southern district police spokesman, said that everything is in accordance with detention center procedures. 'Awwad's confidants also noted that only tomorrow will 'Awwad decide whether to appeal to the High Court of Justice against his expulsion from Israel. If he does not appeal tomorrow, it would be possible to expel him from Israel as soon as tomorrow night.

The U.S. State Department spokesman yesterday called on Israel to put Mubarak 'Awwad on trial if there is evidence against him, rather than deport him. In reaction, it was stated by the prime minister's office that 'Awwad's presence in Israel is illegal since his visa expired as early as November 1987, and that he was harming state security. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering met with the director general of the prime minister's office on this matter yesterday. The prime minister decided on 'Awwad's deportation by virtue of his authority as interior minister, and did not consult the foreign minister on this matter.

The expulsion decision gained extensive coverage in U.S. media. This evening 50 Peace Now movement members staged a demonstration opposite the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem in protest against the expulsion decision.

'Illegal Activities' Listed

TA0805082988 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 May 88 p A3

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, Yosi Levi, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpts] Over the weekend, Prime Minister and Interior Minister Yitzhaq Shamir signed an order for the deportation of Mubarak 'Awwad from Israel. Yosi Ahime'ir, the prime minister's spokesman, said that Mubarak 'Awwad has been staying in Israel illegally since 22 November 1987, the day his visa expired, and has harmed state security and public order.

It was learned from Mubarak 'Awwad's office that he will appeal to the High Court of Justice this morning. If he does not, the order for his deportation could be carried out as early as this evening.

'Awwad established the "Palestine Center for Nonviolence" in East Jerusalem in January 1985. The funds to finance its activities reportedly come from the terrorist organizations. 'Awwad also supports the PLO's armed struggle and has held contacts with its leaders. It was further stated by the prime minister's spokesman that 'Awwad initiated and espoused the attempt to boycott Israeli products, the violation of laws and regulations,

and the refusal to pay taxes. Over the last few months, 'Awwad has been one of the greatest instigators of the disturbances and riots in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and has drafted inflammatory pamphlets calling on the population to take action against Israel.

These pamphlets included calls for violent action against Israeli and moderate Palestinian elements. 'Awwad participated in the drafting of leaflet No 15 which was issued at the end of April 1988. [passage omitted]

'Awwad denies being behind the latest provocations in the territories and having drafted leaflet No 15.

The prime minister's spokesman gave a list of 'Awwad's illegal activities in the last few months:

— On 18 December 1987, 'Awwad engaged in incitement during Friday prayers on Temple Mount.

— At the beginning of January 1988 he held news conferences in which he called for "civil disobedience" in the territories.

— He incited the population to burn Israeli identity cards.

— On 22 March 1988 he delivered a speech to students in Jerusalem in which he expounded on the main points of his philosophy: "The PLO wants the whole of Palestine, and I concur. For me, Palestine means the Galilee, 'Akko, and Ashdod."

— On 17 November 1987 the Saudi newspaper AL-MAJALLAH published an interview with 'Awwad in which he described his methods of action: He said: "As long as they are not allowed to carry guns, the Palestinian people must turn to other forms of struggle... We are stirring people to civil disobedience... We urge them not to sign any document written in Hebrew or any other language other than Arabic... The PLO is our sole legal representative... Our activities complement those of the PLO. There are those who engage in armed struggle, so the rest must act through other means... We are not against those who fight with guns, we are merely doing our duty...." [passage omitted]

'Awwad Appeals; Milo Comments

TA0805074588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 May 88

[Telephone interview with Deputy Minister Roni Milo by moderators David Grossman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Grossman] If the bones of contention and friction points between us and the United States were not yet enough, here is a new one: Mubarak 'Awwad, a U.S. citizen, who runs the Jerusalem Center for the Research of Non-Violence, may be expelled as early as tonight by order of the prime minister. Only the high court can prevent the expulsion, if it accepts 'Awwad's appeal which was submitted just a few minutes ago. [passage omitted]

Deputy Minister Roni Milo, good morning to you.

[Milo] Good morning.

[Grossman] If, as they claim, Mubarak 'Awwad is not such an innocent lamb as he would like us to believe, and if he has really taken part in incitement to violence, thus disrupting public order and damaging state security, why is he not charged in court? As you know, deportation does not look so good on television, particularly in the United States.

[Milo] The reason for this is very simple. The proceeding stipulated by the law in the case of a person staying here unlawfully, whose acts are against the law, is deportation. Any other legal proceedings would be inappropriate in view of these very clear stipulations of Israeli law. I believe that in a case like this, when it is necessary to deport a person because he has perpetrated acts which are against the law, the only path is that of deportation.

[Grossman] It has been 6 months since his visa expired. It was not renewed, but we put up with it somehow. Why have we decided to deport him, despite the vehement opposition in the United States, and why at this particular time?

[Milo] It is well known that one of the reasons for the delay was the American appeal on his behalf. We never concealed this fact, and at that time we responded favorably to the American request to postpone the deportation. The fact remains, however, that despite the deportation postponement, Mubarak 'Awwad never stopped agitating for violence and pouring fuel on the fire of events in Judaea and Samaria. Instead of changing his ways, he continued on the same path of endangering calm and order in Judaea and Samaria. We had, therefore, no option but to deport him.

[Dan] Yes, but must your decision be tied, now of all times, to leaflet No 15 which was published in April 1988?

[Milo] I would not like at this time to go into details of this issue, because most of the material related to Mubarak 'Awwad is confidential. If he decides to appeal, it will be presented to those who have to make the decision, that is the high court judges. I can, however, put your minds at ease: If the prime minister in his capacity as interior minister has decided to deport Mubarak 'Awwad, rest assured that there is unequivocal evidence based on fact as to 'Awwad's role in kindling the fire in Judaea and Samaria.

[Grossman] Would you say that anyone in the territories who speaks his mind as Mubarak 'Awwad did is destined to be expelled?

[Milo] I would not go as far as that. Each issue should be examined on its own merits, according to the degree of incitement, the extent of damage, and the circumstances. In this case, since the issue is both an illegal stay and illegal acts, I think there is no reason to cancel the deportation order.

[Grossman] You know, our political affairs correspondent says that Secretary of State Shultz himself may later today talk directly with the prime minister, to try and influence him to call it off. The Americans are taking this very hard, you know.

[Milo] I rely on the prime minister to be able to make things perfectly clear to Shultz, and I also assume he will manage to convince Mr Shultz that there is no other way. If he does not, then he does not. There can always be some points of disagreement between Israel and the United States even on this kind of issue, but we must make decisions according to our security needs which are vital, as far as we are concerned.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0630 GMT on 8 May adds that "Senior Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem believe that the decision to deport Mubarak 'Awwad at this time may be nothing but an effort to disrupt Shim'on Peres' impending visit to the United States. Officials in the prime minister's office have categorically denied these allegations."]

Court To Consider Appeal

TA0805132788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] The deportation of Mubarak 'Awwad was delayed by the High Court of Justice until tomorrow morning when three judges will deliberate on his appeal. The three Supreme Court judges are Aharon Barak, Gavriel Bach, and Shoshana Netanyahu.

Judge Netanyahu issued the interim injunction about an hour ago and ordered the prime minister to show cause why the deportation order should not be withdrawn. 'Awwad's appeal claims that the law dealing with entry into Israel, on which the deportation order was based, does not refer to anyone who has been a resident of the region for some time. Since 'Awwad lived in East Jerusalem before the 6-Day War, he did not enter Israel and his status is that of an Israeli resident.

Mrs 'Awwad's News Conference

TA0805151588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] At noon today, the High Court of Justice issued an interim order in Mubarak 'Awwad's case, instructing the interior and police affairs ministers not to deny 'Awwad's freedom of movement and not to deport him from Israel. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that in addition, the High Court of Justice issued an order instructing the interior and police affairs minister to show cause within 3 days why they do not refrain from expelling 'Awwad. In so doing, the court has accepted Mubarak 'Awwad's request. Justice Shoshana Netanyahu ruled that the hearing of the appeal will take place tomorrow morning.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Palestinian Nonviolence Center convened a news conference at noon during which 'Awwad's wife said that the wife of Jesse Jackson, a U.S. Democratic presidential candidate, called to encourage her. Ms Jackson said that in light of her experience in struggling for human rights in the United States, she is convinced that Mubarak 'Awwad will succeed in his struggle.

During the news conference, Nancy 'Awwad read aloud a public statement her husband sent from jail, calling for continued adherence to the principles of nonviolence. According to 'Awwad, the seeds of this doctrine have grown in the territories, and can be viewed daily in the actions of the intifadha [uprising] which is developing into a system of civil disobedience. 'Awwad adds that he will continue the struggle against his expulsion using all means at his disposal, and that if he violated the law he should be tried.

'Few Defenders' in Cabinet

TA0805174888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 May 88

[Excegl The cabinet today heard reports the army's action in Lebanon last week, and discussed the procedures for approving military operations. The issue of Mubarak 'Awwad was not discussed, although ministers did express their opinions on it to reporters after the meeting. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] If the High Court decides against Mubarak 'Awwad, he will find few defenders at cabinet level. For Likud ministers there is no question—'Awwad should be expelled—but even among Labor ministers, there is general agreement with the decision in principle to expel him. Deputy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Navon, for example, says there is evidence that the man was one of the brains behind the uprising in the territories.

[Navon] I don't think in any other country people would have accepted such behavior. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Deportation Pending Appeal

TA0905082588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] In an interim injunction issued this morning, the High Court of Justice has ruled that Mubarak 'Awwad will not be deported from Israel until a final decision is

made on his case. The court has now adjourned, and will later reconvene to announce its decision on whether 'Awwad should be released from prison until a hearing is held on his appeal against the deportation order. The State Attorney's Office has already submitted its position concerning 'Awwad's appeal, but the date for the hearing has not yet been set.

'Awwad in Prison Until Hearing

TA0905121088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Mubarak 'Awwad will remain under arrest. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that 'Awwad will remain in prison until after the hearing on his appeal against his deportation from Israel. The hearing will take place in 2 weeks.

Knesset Member Requests U.S. Ambassador's Removal

TA0905085488 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 May 88 p A3

[Text] Likud Knesset Member [MK] 'Uzi Landau, a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, yesterday asked Prime Minister Shamir to act toward replacing the American ambassador in Israel.

MK Landau claims that Ambassador Pickering is hostile toward Israel despite the fact that he is representing a superpower which is a great friend of ours. His support of Mubarak 'Awwad is the greatest possible hypocrisy. According to MK Landau, it is impossible to advocate an all-out war on terrorism—as the Americans do—and at the same time demand that we not deport 'Awwad, a U.S. citizen who wants to help the PLO fight us from within by taking advantage of the weaknesses of democracy.

MK Yuval Ne'eman, chairman of the Tehiya Party, has said that Shultz' letter to Shamir, in which he compared the deportation of Mubarak 'Awwad to the situation of Soviet Jewry, is chutzpah and a distortion.

Report on Egypt Ambassador Recall Request Denied

TA0805084188 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 May 88 p 11

[Report by Smadar Peri]

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has denied reports published over the weekend to the effect that Egypt asked Israel to recall Ambassador Moshe Sason so that he would not become the doyen of the diplomatic corps in Egypt by virtue of his seniority.

Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir said that Israel had not received any request whatsoever from Egypt regarding Moshe Sason's tour of duty. Contrary to publications, it was Ambassador Sason himself who last month asked to be relieved of his prolonged service in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Rabin Discusses Responsibility for IDF Operation

TA0605202088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 6 May 88

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Shlonsky] Mr Minister, in your view, was the IDF operation in Lebanon routine or exceptional?

[Rabin] This operation was carried out in the framework of the security policy which has existed for 3 years now.

[Shlonsky] Was this operation brought to the Inner Cabinet for approval?

[Rabin] In discussing this operation I suggest that we distinguish between the security policy, the implications of this operation for the security policy, and the formalistic, procedural issue of the process of granting approval. I would like to summarize it. The two parts of this operation—clearing terrorists and deterring the population that lives in the security zone and north of it, and the removal of Hizballah terrorists from their base that is nearest to us—have achieved their goal, despite the painful price, and there is no doubt that the price is painful.

As for the procedural aspect...

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Mr Defense Minister, with your permission, we are talking of 1,000 soldiers beyond the security zone and opposite the Syrian lines.

[Rabin] As for the procedural aspect, the procedures in effect for the last 3 years say that everything concerning activity in the security zone is in IDF hands. Furthermore, over the last 1 and 1/2 years we have encouraged company and battalion commanders to initiate a weekly blueprint, we relegated responsibility and demanded initiative of them. Every activity beyond the security zone is under the responsibility and approval of the defense minister. An Air Force attack on targets deep inside Lebanese territory would be brought to the Inner Cabinet. As for activities near the security zone, some of them I brought to the Inner Cabinet for approval while most of them I did not.

[Shlonsky] Still, should an operation on such a scale—let me repeat, 1,000 soldiers so near the Syrian lines—not be brought to the Inner Cabinet for approval?

[Rabin] Let me go over to the Syrian aspect here. Let me tell you, for 3 years the Syrians have known our rules of conduct and we have known their rules of conduct. Nothing unexpected took place with the Syrians. The Syrians do not think that I, as defense minister, would be fool enough to again plunge the IDF, in strength, into the Lebanese quagmire. They knew this was a raid far away,

at a distance of dozens of kilometers, from the lines where their main forces are deployed. Except for a small [Syrian] force located in Mashgharah due to Hizballah-Amal rifts, we were very far from the Syrian forces. We have acted in the Maydun area in the past. We have attacked artillery and mortars in the Mashgharah area in the past. There was no novelty in this type of activity compared to the past. As for...

[Shlonsky, interrupting] You know that your Inner Cabinet colleagues are strongly critical of the fact that this issue was not brought to the Inner Cabinet, saying that much smaller operations are brought to this forum. It was also reported from the prime minister's office that not all the information was passed on to the prime minister before the operation.

[Rabin] I will not discuss the claims publicized in the media on behalf of the prime minister. Let me tell you, I am the defense minister. I am the person fully responsible for security, for both achievements and failures, for the satisfaction in the wake of an accomplished mission as well as the pain involved in paying the price, on occasion. I am the person in charge. I gave the order. I acted within the framework of existing regulations.

[Shlonsky] We are talking of an Inner Cabinet which makes decisions and gives approval to operations. Let me repeat, a brigade, more or less, active beyond the security zone borders—does not such activity require approval?

[Rabin] Less than 1,000 people were active, and only a small portion of them crossed the boundaries of the security zone. It is not the first time that we have crossed. I am convinced that this falls within my responsibility, and I acted accordingly. I would suggest that the Israeli people and my Inner Cabinet and cabinet colleagues pay tribute to the spirit of fighting, the fighters' achievement in this operation. If one wants peace for the Galilee, it is preferable to carry such operations out, not to sit on the fence but rather to initiate and attack when necessary. Any attempt to make work procedures more difficult and cumbersome will harm the security of the settlements and residents of the north, and I suggest you ask these residents what they think about the last 3 years. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Deny Terrorists Return to Maydun

TA0805045588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, some 250 terrorists have returned to the village of Maydun. The terrorists have abstained, however, from trying to set up buildings or tents in the demolished village. Shaykh Subhi Tufayli, one of the Hizballah leaders, said in the nearby village of Mashgharah that Maydun has once again become a departure base for operations against Israel.

Security sources in the north have told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the reports regarding the return of terrorists to Maydun should not be given credence because the village was totally wiped out. The security forces stressed that the IDF would not permit a renewed establishment of terrorist bases in Maydun.

Eight Iranians Reported Killed in Maydun Battle

TA0805181188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 8 May 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami reports that a number of Iranians were killed in the fighting at Maydun. According to a south Lebanese source, the bodies of eight Iranians, identified by documents they carried, were found among the pro-Iranian Hizballah gunmen based in the village.

'Military Source' Denies Naval Action Off Lebanon

TA0805164088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] In reaction to reports from Lebanon that an Israeli Navy ship early this morning fired at and wounded a fisherman, an official military source announced that the IDF has no knowledge of such an action.

Rabin To Consider 'Nonviolent' Demonstrations

TA0905095088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 May 88

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that he is willing to consider the approval of nonviolent demonstrations by Palestinians in the territories. Mr Rabin made these remarks to representatives of the Peace Now movement who came to his office this morning to protest his policy concerning the territories. The representatives criticized Rabin's policy in dealing both with the Palestinian problem and with the Jewish settlers. [passage omitted]

AL-'AWDAH Editor Released on Bail 6 May

TA0605171988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] The Jerusalem police today released Ilyas Zananiri, one of the editors of the East Jerusalem AL-'AWDAH paper, on bail of 1,000 shekels. He told our correspondent Arye Gus that he was interrogated by the police on suspicion of having incited boys into throwing stones, but he denied this charge.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

New Gaza ID Cards Issued

TA0605190588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 6 May 88

[Excerpts] The Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip is working out a plan for replacing the identity cards of residents who are 18 years old and above. This

is reported by our correspondent Victor Nahmias. This drive will encompass a population of about 400,000 men and women, and will be carried out gradually, according to areas. The need to replace the cards has arisen since several thousand Gaza Strip residents have lost their identity cards in the course of the incidents involved in the uprising. Following is a report by Gil Sadan.

[Begin recording] The beginning of a large-scale drive of replacing identity cards will begin here, at the Bukhturi School in Gaza, next Tuesday. Thousands of the Gaza Strip residents will arrive here with their old identity cards to have them exchanged for new ones. Thus the Civilian Administration wants to regain control over the local population which has weakened under the uprising.

With the means of this drive every Gaza Strip resident, 16 [as heard] years old and up, will have to face the close scrutiny of an administration official, after he pays the Treasury 15 shekels. The official explanation for this unprecedented move is quite innocent. There are numerous worn out identity cards in Gaza, and it is time they were replaced.

Still, it is clear to the residents that the authorities actually want to update the almighty computer, to increase their dependence on the authorities, and to suppress the various manifestations of the civilian uprising which has been expressed, for example, in the refusal to pay taxes. This move supplements the form of trips [tiyulim] which has lately been introduced in the Gaza Strip. Identity cards were taken from residents and are returned to them only after they meet a series of conditions. [passage omitted]

Residents who will not show up to exchange their old cards for new ones, or those who will be refused new cards by the authorities, will hold the status of nonbearers of cards, in which case they will face the following choice. They will either go into the underground, or be detained, or even be required to leave the territories ruled by Israel. [end recording]

Warning To Pay Utility Bills

TA0705201988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 May 88

[Excerpt] The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria has warned 10 regional villages that their water and electricity supply will be stopped if they persist in refusing to pay for these services. The residents refrain from paying electricity and water bills in the framework of what they call the independence of their villages. [passage omitted]

Leaflet Authors Will Be Charged

TA0805063688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed this morning on the Gaza Strip town of 'Abasan. The Jabalyah refugee camp is also under curfew.

The IDF spokesman's representative in the Gaza Strip has told our correspondent Moti Amir that the district is quiet and that many workers left for jobs in Israel.

Our correspondent further reports that charges will be pressed today in the Gaza military court against eight residents suspected of writing and disseminating leaflets. Four of these are thought to be leaders of the Gaza Strip shabibah [youth] movement.

Two more administrative detainees have appealed their detentions to the appeals committee affiliated with the commander of the Southern Command. One of them is Attorney Muhammad Abu Sha'ban. Our correspondent notes that so far only 3 of the 400 Gaza Strip administrative detainees have appealed their detentions.

Wounded Gazan Hospitalized

TA0805074888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] A 29-year-old Gazan who sustained gun shot wounds was brought this morning to the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. Gaza Strip military sources have told our correspondent 'Ezra Yanuv that they have no information regarding any incident in which shots were fired by the security forces at residents of the Gaza Strip today.

2 Deportation Orders Issued

TA0805171488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 8 May 88

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] A curfew was imposed this morning and then lifted a few hours later on the township of 'Abasan. Arab sources reported that a group of Israeli tax collectors arrived at the town, resulting in a riot. The curfew was lifted after order was restored. The curfew on the Jabalyah refugee camp continues.

Relative quiet was maintained in the Gaza Strip today. Commerce resumed in most towns in the morning, but there were strikes again in the afternoon. The Civilian Administration in the Gaza Strip is allowing merchants to trade throughout the day without the intervention of the IDF. The Civilian Administration today dealt with final preparations in the operation, slated to begin Tuesday, to exchange the identity cards of Gaza Strip inhabitants.

Charges were filed today in Gaza's military court against eight inhabitants suspected of writing and disseminating leaflets. Four are suspected of being the leaders of the shabibah [youth] movement in the region, and the four others of belonging to hostile organizations.

Deportation orders were issued against two others suspected of writing leaflets. The advisory committee to the commander of the Southern Command will hear their appeals tomorrow.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1600 on 8 May adds that "Commercial life in Judaea and Samaria returned to normal today after being idle for 3 days on the order of the security forces. Educational institutions will remain closed for another month."].

1 Killed in Al-Duhayshah

TA0905115588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Ibrahim Muhammad Husayn, aged 34, was killed by IDF gunfire in the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp at noon today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that at a certain point where the riots intensified the soldiers used firearms and hit four men: one was killed and three were wounded.

Arab sources reported riots in Hebron and the village of Irtah. In Tulkarm, the windshield of an Israeli car that was parked on the main street was smashed.

There were riots in the Gaza Strip this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that dozens of rioters were dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets in the neighborhood of Al-Shaja'iyah. IDF soldiers provided protection to Gaza Strip laborers leaving for work in Israel this morning. The main roads opened at noon.

IDF Releases Casualty Figures

TA0905075588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Since the beginning of the uprising in the territories 149 residents have been killed: 105 in Judaea and Samaria, and 44 in Gaza. One Israeli girl, Tirtza Porat, and one IDF soldier have been killed. Some 298 Israelis, all of them soldiers, have been wounded. The number of wounded among the Arab inhabitants totals 1,410.

The number of detainees in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip totals 7,525, some of whom have already been released. These figures were given by the IDF spokesman upon the request of our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Employment Data Released

TA0805142988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Data from the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry indicate that the number of Judaea and Samaria organized laborers who work in Israel did not decline during the first months of the uprising. The largest decline was registered from the unorganized laborers. At the same time, workers from the territories registered a 10-percent decrease in total number of work days in Israel. On the basis of these figures, our correspondent Arye Salman reports that in January and February the number of organized laborers was about 50,000, exceeding that of the same period last year by about 3,000.

2 Arabs Given Life Terms for 1987 Grenade Attack

TA0805134888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Two Israeli Arabs from Lod were sentenced to life imprisonment today after being convicted of hurling a grenade at a bus. The two, Muhlis Burghil and Muhmad Mansur Zayada, were sent by the PFLP to carry out an act of sabotage. The grenade Burghil threw at a bus at the Meteorological Junction in June 1987 did not explode. The ITIM news agency reports that in handing down the sentences, Colonel Aharon Halperin, president of the court, stressed that the fact that the grenade did not explode had no effect on the sentence imposed on the two.

Barta'a Arabs Detained for Blocking Road

TA0805085388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] The authorities have detained a resident of the Triangle village of Eastern Barta'a, who is suspected of flying the PLO flag. He is also suspected of trying to block the village entrance road.

An ITIM correspondent reports that several other Barta'a residents have been also detained on similar charges, as well as the suspicion of stoning vehicles.

King Husayn Speaks on PLO, National Unity

JN090814 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
9 May 88 p 19

[Speech by King Husayn ibn Talal at a fast-breaking dinner he hosted for Al-Karak Governorate notables in Al-Karak on 8 May 1988]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Good evening brothers. I am very pleased to have this opportunity in this blessed month to be once again among the kinfolk and dear brothers, the comrades in the long and purposeful march in this dear part of our beloved homeland in the Al-Karak Governorate. I am pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the dear brothers with whom I experienced throughout my life a firmness in holding on to principles and in defending the homeland. We stood together in the face of all challenges and threats. [passage omitted]

We are on the longest confrontation line. We are aware of this and we realize that it makes us shoulder heavy responsibilities. We have built our Armed Forces and our Arab army with all our energies and with our maximum capabilities.

If one looks at the complete picture one will find that we have accomplishments in every field. These we achieved with the material resources at our disposal. Perhaps these accomplishments are less than what we wanted, but at the same time we are entitled to be proud of them. With little resources we have achieved a great deal. If we were to compare our situation and achievements with what our adversary nearby has achieved with all the material aid and weaponry that is poured on him annually from every direction we will realize that what we achieved is not at all insignificant. Indeed, it should be and it is a source of pride for every Jordanian.

We have with us here tonight men from the Arab Army who fought in 1948 and after it. Praise be to God, our Army now numbers about 120,000 officers and men compared with the faithful few who fought in 1948. [passage omitted]

Iraq has stood united and, praise be to God, continues to stand united, steadfast, and firm under a noble and aware Arab leadership. Its latest victory is the great military victory in which the invaders of its land were thrown out of Al-Faw a short while ago.

In the occupied territory, after 20 years of occupation and tyranny in an age in which they talk about human rights, and the violation of such rights, the kinfolk and brothers, their youth, their elderly, their children, their women, and their men have all arisen and demonstrated with their sacrifices, as Iraq has demonstrated, that the Arab has not weakened and will not weaken.

We hope the lesson will be productive, for tyranny, aggression, and the occupation of the territory of others by war does not achieve peace. Peace is achieved when peoples regain their full rights on bases acceptable to future generations.

We stand by the kinfolk and brothers in all the occupied Palestinian Arab territory and the other occupied Arab territory, just as we stand by the brothers and kinfolk in Iraq with all our energies and capabilities. We are proud of their heroism and sacrifices. We are proud of the Arab determination that gives all the Arab nation hope in the inevitability of the triumph of justice and in the Arab nation achieving its rights and goals.

During my meetings with our kinfolk and brothers in the past days I said that if we must carry out our duty we never hesitated in carrying out that duty in full. We build our strength and prepare. We want this land and this homeland to be a shield that does not only stave off the danger to the Jordanian people but also staves off the ambitions against the Arab nation. We want this homeland to be an example for others in the cohesion and awareness of its citizens, for awareness is our sharp weapon. The people of Jordan have always been an aware people who carried out their role and their duty in the best possible manner.

Throughout my life, in my every action and every measure I sought to have a rested conscience and to make a reality of what I believed every one of you wanted. If we have to carry out our duty in defending this land we will carry out that duty in full. We will carry out our duty in defending any Arab land. We are proud to belong to this nation, and we are proud to carry the message of the Great Arab Revolt whose banner was passed on to us—the banner of the Great Arab Revolt which is protected and raised high by the strong and true Arab arms.

If the solution is a political one, then with regard to the Palestine question it has to be achieved through an international conference supervised by the five permanent members of the Security Council who participate in it together with all the parties to the conflict, especially the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We believe the conference can be convened only on certain bases which include Security Council Resolution 338, which calls for the convening of an international conference to tackle the issue, and Resolution 242 with its principles, foremost among which is the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. The main thing is to tackle all aspects of the Palestine question.

Tackling the Palestine question means that the people of Palestine participate in the international conference with a full role so that they can have their say. We will always be, in this country in particular, in the vanguard of those assisting our kinfolk and brothers with all our energies. [passage omitted]

In 1972 we put forward a view and idea of what could happen when the land is liberated and restored to its owners. We were acting as a UN member that had part of its land under occupation and that was seeking to regain that land. In view of the fact that we felt there was a growing desire to maintain the Jordanian national identity on one hand, and the Palestinian national identity on the other, we put forward three ideas: The land should not return to us, the land should be placed under international supervision, and the brothers and kinfolk should decide what they want so as to exercise their right to self-determination. In my view the formula of unity at the time, and also today, is not an ideal formula. There is the other option, the establishment of a federation, that is two assemblies representing the people here and the people there, and a local government here and a local government there, and then a federal council and a federal government.

I concentrated on this issue because I believe that this will be the future pattern, the ideal pattern for what we seek to achieve, not just for Palestine and the people of Palestine. The people of Palestine also have a third option, to establish an independent state on their national soil. When we look for Arab unity perhaps the form I mentioned in the second option is the more realistic form that reflects the ambitions and wishes of the people and the present historic stage.

In 1974, after the 1973 battle, the [Arab] summit was held in Rabat. We explained all our views frankly and clearly in a long discussion. We argued that there is no and must be no contradiction between us and the PLO, as the Palestine question is not only the question of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Everyone has to work for a situation in which rights are restored to their owners. When we found that the Palestinian side and the Arab nation have a different view we accepted it and abided by it. We will continue to abide by it. Consequently, ever since that date the PLO was responsible for representing the Palestinian Arab people, with our concurrence and our absolute support.

Thus, if an international conference is held we will not represent the Palestinian Arab people or their organization, for the Palestinian people must represent themselves.

In any case, if they want we will attend the conference as a joint delegation: a Jordanian delegation and a Palestinian delegation who go together and attend on an equal footing within the framework of a joint delegation. The Palestinian delegation will shoulder its responsibility with all our support, and we shoulder our responsibilities together with all the Arab brothers concerned in attempting to resolve all aspects of the issue and to restore the rights to their owners.

I hope this will be clear. I hope everyone will understand that we mean every word of it. If Husayn I had ambitions I would not have chosen his path. If 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn had certain objectives I would not have adopted the same stand as him. With the help of God, I will always take the same path forged by my fathers and forefathers, and this Arab country will follow that path. The issue is not one of strength and weakness, but it is one of right and justice. If they talk about history and its influence on them, we also have our Hashemite history. Those who will come after us and all the people of this country—I do not believe that any person under any circumstances can imagine that they will violate the 'Umari document [containing a pledge by the Muslim Caliph 'Umar ibn al-Khattab to the inhabitants of Jerusalem]. We will not violate the 'Umari document on Jerusalem. It is more honorable to die than to have any of us undermine that document. Right is above all else, and with the help of God it will be restored to its owners.

We return once again to our issue here in Jordan. We here are the heirs of the Great Arab Revolt, its principles, goals, and objectives, Arab unity. Regardless of where any person who joined this family came from or where his fathers and forefathers came from, all are Arabs and all are the people of Jordan. As long as they choose so, they have the same rights and duties.

Their respect for the Kingdom's Constitution and laws gives them all the same rights. With regard to the Palestinians among them, that does not at all infringe upon their right to their national soil and to regain that right with our full backing and support, joined by our nation and most of the people in the world.

My constant work on the Arab, international, and Muslim levels has deprived me for a long time of the opportunity of being among you and with you. However, you are always in my heart.

Therefore, we must close our ranks and be vigilant and alert. I talked about 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn and his efforts, together with the efforts of your fathers, to save this area from the scheme aimed at establishing the Jewish state at the expense of Jordan and Palestine. Our enemy has objectives we are aware of. We should be very alert to these objectives including the tarnishing of our image, casting doubts, and fragmentation to make it easy to achieve its goals and objectives at our, as well as our nation's, expense.

You hear every now and then about patriotic forces. Patriotic forces are those that live on land occupied by a foreigner or usurper and resist. We consider the Palestinian Arab people on all the occupied Palestinian soil as patriotic forces. However, when the people attain their objectives and goals and realize their objective of freedom, we cannot describe one group as patriotic and others as non-patriotic. The groups that move could be described as a group of activists. But this activity could be toward good or evil. Therefore we should be aware of this.

The forces that we confront should not be underestimated—Israel, the Zionist movement, and the forces that support it in this world. We should be vigilant and close our ranks. We should be aware of the reality of the danger we are confronting. We should be alert, for example, so that no agent will infiltrate our ranks with the aim of trying to implement our enemy's schemes to establish an alternative homeland. This land is for the Jordanians whether their origin is Palestinian, Iraqi, Hijazi, Syrian, or any Arab from any place in addition to all its sons regardless of their origins. The issue is not one of Jordan but of the Arab Palestinian right on the national Palestinian soil.

Our duty is to defend this land through our awareness, faithfulness, and honesty so that the right will return to its owners who will then decide whatever they want. Our maximum hope in the field of political action is that the PLO will go to the conference in an independent delegation with our full support and complete backing; the land will be regained; and the people will be left to choose and decide their destiny. If they opt for any type of union with us, for example, the issue will be presented to this people to decide and choose. If they want to establish their independent state we will bless their trend and we will support them with all our potential. We will perform any part of our duty on any level, in any direction, and in any place in our Arab homeland. To serve our nation, we should be in one line, and with one heart. And so you are, praise be to God.

The circumstances which deprived me of meeting with you for this long time, and the difficult circumstances we are experiencing oblige me to talk frankly and clearly with you on these matters. In fact, when meeting you I feel satisfaction and gratitude. I want to reassure you about my belief in the inevitability of the victory of truth and about the achievement of all our goals and objectives, with God's help.

Many arrows hit us. But, praise be to God, one lives with a peaceful mind. We tried the impossible and we will continue from a position of responsibility. We knocked on all doors in the service of our nation to regain its rights, glory, and dignity, with God's help.

All thanks, appreciation, and gratitude to you all. May God, the patron of the march and success, bless you. Greetings.

King Husayn on Shultz Visit, Palestinians
JN090629 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 May 88 pp 1,5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff writer with agency reports]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn said Saturday he hoped U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz would answer Jordan's queries on a U.S. peace plan for the Middle East before he returns to the region next month.

"We understand some answers are on the way. I hope they arrive before he does," the King told foreign journalists in a meeting in Amman Saturday night. The King said Shultz would be in the Middle East from June 3 to 8. It will be his fourth trip to the region since February. The King also affirmed that the Middle East peace process was "still alive" although there are many obstacles in its way.

"Obstacles facing the Middle East peace process are too numerous," the King said. "But it is still alive and we hope it will continue," he said. The King acknowledged that Jordan "welcomed the dialogue with the United States, but we are expecting answers to our questions."

The King was referring to five principles, presented to Shultz during his visit to the region last month. They are the basis of Jordan's position for a settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the King said. The principles, as outlined by the King, include:

—Israeli withdrawal from all Israeli-occupied territories including the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights.

—The settlement of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, including the right of Palestinian people to self-determination.

If these two principles are fulfilled according to Security Council Resolution 242, the resolution's call for all countries in the region to live within secure boundaries, including Israel, could become a reality.

—A comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict can only be negotiated at an international peace conference.

—The conference must not be a ceremonial gathering for the sole purpose of launching direct negotiations. It should include the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the dispute, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

—Jordan is prepared to attend the international conference as a national delegation, as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or as part of a single Arab delegation. But Jordan will not represent the Palestinian people at the conference, nor will it negotiate on behalf of the PLO.

The King said the PLO should take part in any international conference, and the Palestinian voice had to be heard and Jordan believed it could and should be in the context of such a meeting.

"They have to participate in the conference and to the fullest possible extent represent themselves," he added. Blaming "extremist elements within Israel for blocking peace," the King said: "If there is no solution, and soon, we are heading for a real disaster."

He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's rejection of the Shultz initiative was a test for Washington. The King also criticised aspects of U.S. policy in the Middle East, describing a wide-ranging U.S.-Israeli "memorandum of agreement" signed last month as "disturbing, shocking and disappointing."

"One would hope the United States will try to play the role it has the right, the moral obligation to play in resolving this problem by being fair, just and by living up to its commitments as a superpower and a nation that has a lot of interests in this area," he said.

"All of us in this area are watching with great interest to see what the United States can do to regain its credibility."

Commenting on the Algerian call for an emergency Arab summit, the King said: "We have always welcomed Arab summits and fully support and encourage (Arab leaders) coming together. There is a lot to be done before a summit takes place. I do not know whether the meeting will take place in a certain period of time, such as has been suggested, in June. In fact, we are on the verge of receiving the Algerian foreign minister in the next few days. We will probably learn more about the suggestion by the president of Algeria in this regard."

"If there is something tangible on the Palestinian question, then the summit will convene in time," he said.

The King welcomed the recent reconciliation meeting between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as a "constructive development" and said Jordan was briefed on the meeting by both sides as part of ongoing consultations and contacts among Arab leaders. Jordan constantly exchanges views and information at the highest level with Syria, Egypt and other Arab countries, the King said.

"We are happy" over the Al-Asad-'Arafat meeting and Jordan hopes that it would lead to "a better atmosphere for just and comprehensive peace," the King said.

The King deplored the assassination of PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Tunis last month widely believed to have been carried out by Israeli government agents. The King described the murder as an "attempt in a way may be to create a reaction against peace and against attempts to achieve peace in the area."

"We are also distressed by the action taken in the last two days by the Israelis in Lebanon," the King said. "It was seen that it has not become as clear as it should be to Israel that occupation of others' lands such as the case of the last 20 years—use of force does not create a tranquil and clear atmosphere to achieve peace, it does not create peace..."

Asked whether there was any indication that the PLO was agreeable to Jordan's stand that the kingdom is willing to attend the called-for international conference in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if all parties agreed, the King said: "I've no indication as yet. But, in our view, there is no need to pursue the matter any further with any urgency since we have not got to the point" of realising the call for an international conference.

The King expressed optimism that the forthcoming summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would create an atmosphere conducive to efforts to settle the problems of the Middle East—the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the Iran-Iraq war.

In reply to a question on Syria-Iraq reconciliation, the King said: "It certainly is our dearest wish to see that development. I believe a lot of ground was covered in meetings prior to the Amman summit (of November 1987) and the Amman summit itself. However, we have not yet seen all that we wish in this regard."

But, the King said, Jordan believes that Syrian-Iraq relations "inevitably will be" improved.

Soviet Ambassador at Large Arrives in Amman

JN081502 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Mikhail Sytenko, ambassador at large at the USSR Foreign Ministry, arrived in Amman last night for a 2-day visit to Jordan. He is expected to be received by King Husayn. It will be recalled that last March at the request of the Soviet Union the Jordanian monarch played a mediating role between Pakistan and Afghanistan in promoting an Afghan solution.

Received by King

JN090630 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Mikhail Sytenko, ambassador at large at the USSR Foreign Ministry, at the Al-Nadwah Palace last night. The USSR envoy thanked his majesty the king for his praiseworthy efforts which significantly contributed to the success of the meetings in Geneva to solve the Afghan question, and to bring the viewpoints of the participants in the talks closer.

Viewpoints were exchanged on the best ways to achieve a peaceful and comprehensive solution to stop the destructive Iraq-Iran war based on Security Council Resolution 598, and on the efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference with the attendance of the five permenant member states of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Al-Rifa'i, Al-Masri Meet With PLO Group

JN071446 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Amman, 7 May (PETRA)—The Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Palestinian side led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, held a meeting at the Prime Ministry at noon today.

In the meeting, the Palestinian side reviewed the contacts held between the PLO and both the Soviet Union and Syria. The prime minister reviewed the Jordanian stand on the issue of peace in the Middle East in light of the six principles announced by Jordan. This meeting comes in continuation of the ongoing consultations between Jordan and the PLO. The two sides agreed to continue these fraternal consultations between them.

It is noteworthy that Mahmud 'Abbas was chosen as the PLO representative in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to succeed the late Khalil al-Wazir. He arrived in Amman the day before yesterday. The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Ma'i, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin, Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, and Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani. It was attended on the Palestinian side by 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad and Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee members.

Reportage on Amal, Hizballah Continuing Clashes

Amal Launches Counteroffensive

NC0705050588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The Amal movement launched a counteroffensive against the southern suburb early today, and has been fiercely shelling the area since 0600. Violent clashes are currently raging between Amal and Hizballah gunmen along the combat lines of Hayy Madi, Harat Hurayk, Bi'r al-'Abd, and Cinderella. Heavy-caliber weapons and tanks are being used in the fighting.

Amal Denies Counteroffensive

NC0705071588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0630 GMT 7 May 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In contact with the Voice of Lebanon radio, the Amal movement has denied that it has launched a counteroffensive against the southern suburb and affirmed the traditional nature of the ongoing clashes, in which there are neither attacks nor counterattacks. On the other hand, security sources have reported that the Amal movement, which had brought additional forces from the South and Al-Biqa', launched an offensive against Hizballah positions in the suburb at 0400 today. An Amal movement source has not ruled out the possibility that there will be basic changes on the ground as of noon today.

According to the security sources, Amal's representatives in the mediation committee withdrew this morning as a result of Hizballah's rejection of a cease-fire and the deployment of observers to sensitive areas. The same sources have added that the Iranian delegation has followed suit in solidarity with the Amal movement and in protest against Hizballah's behavior. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, we have just been informed that the two sides are currently trading machinegun and rocket fire.

According to the information we have just received, the Amal movement has regained some of its positions in Hayy Madi as a result of its offensive early today. Security sources have monitored huge Amal troop concentrations in areas between Al-Tayyunah and the Al-Rasul Mosque. [passage omitted]

Amal Issues Statement

NC0705124788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 May 88

[Statement issued by the Amal Movement's Central Information Bureau on 7 May]

[Text] The hands of sedition and sabotage, which had failed to assassinate the south and its national resistance decision making, moved again early Friday in an attempt to assassinate the southern suburb, the stronghold of resistance and the main center resisting the factional regime. Hizballah members have treacherously assassinated three brothers of the Dabbus clan, which belongs to the Amal movement. This was followed by a show of force in a number of areas.

Immediately afterward, and in order to strangle the sedition, the Amal movement held contacts with Shi'ite leaders and the Iranian Embassy in an attempt to avert any further deterioration. Unfortunately, however, Hizballah had brought in reinforcements from other areas, in addition to all the members of the well-known gangs, which had played havoc in the heroic suburb.

The armed gangs launched an attack on the Amal movement, its kinfolk, and masses on Friday noon without taking the lives and property of innocent people into consideration. The Amal movement, in a move to avert any further destruction and deaths, made intensive efforts through meetings and committees, which had been formed under the aegis of a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, to curb such events and to return matters to normal. However, these gangs are determined to continue their war, evidenced by their decision to launch attacks on new quarters.

Oh, our steadfast kinfolk; Oh, the sons of Imam al-Sadr; Oh, sons of the Lebanese resistance groups; Oh Lebanese: The Amal movement, which holds all officials responsibile for the current events and which has made painstaking efforts to contain the circumstances of these events, finds itself obligated to perform its duty within the framework of self-defense in order to defend the past, present, and future of the oppressed, who have offered thousands of martyrs.

To prevent the fall of our areas into the hands of gangs and thugs, the Amal movement, which has preserved the south and thwarted all attempts to use the south for extortion purposes, reiterates that it will rise up to its responsibility and preserve the suburb.

Hizballah Fears Hostage Loss

NC0705175288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that U.S. and UK diplomats are closely following developments in the southern Beirut suburb, concerned about the fate of Western hostages.

There are reports that Hizballah is in touch with the Fatah movement in Burj al-Barajinah to review the situation and probe the extent of Fatah's willingness to help. Hizballah's greatest fear is that the hostages in the suburb may fall into Amal's hands, which Hizballah views as totally unacceptable. Also in the suburb are some of Hizballah's most prominent officials, who have taken part in hostage-taking and possibly in the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner.

Reconciliation Urged

NC0805081288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] The events that have taken place in the southern suburb over the past 2 days are serious, extremely serious, particularly since they come in the wake of the devout Islamic mujahidin's heroic confrontation against the Zionist occupation forces in Maydun. These events threaten our values and the Islamic resistance.

The bombardment to which the southern suburb was subjected should have been directed at Upper Galilee, the barracks of the Phalangist forces, and the Lahd centers. Our areas can endure only dialogue and cooperation as a means to resolve diverging opinions, because the dispute involving sons of the same rank should be solved by dialogue, not by the gun. The sons of Islam, who were forced to defend themselves and the dignity of their kinfolk, appreciate the honorable role played by the sons of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their objective, painstaking efforts aimed at halting the bloodshed of Muslims. The sons of Islam highly praise the efforts of the reconciliation committee. At any rate, the sons of the Islamic resistance, out of their commitment to the cease-fire initiative and from a position of strength, not weakness, and from a position of forbearance with the aggressor, have returned the offices of the Amal movement members. This demonstrates that the sons of Islam are not seeking confrontation with the Amal movement or coveting the movement's offices. They seek only to fight Israel and its lackeys. This would enable all the devout to end the internal fighting and unify the Shi'ite ranks, which constitute the pillars of resistance.

Hence, we urge all parties and honest people not to fall into the quagmire of blind sedition concocted by the United States and Israel, which seek to retaliate for the Marines. We repeat that the hearts of the faithful are open to any dialogue or work which would preserve our kinfolk and their property from a war which only benefits our enemy, who is lying in wait for us. We must resort to logic and reason and stop pouring oil on the fire. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Those who persecute, or draw into temptation, the believers, men and women, and do not turn in repentance, will have the penalty of Hell; they will have the penalty of the burning fire. [Koranic verse]

6th Brigade Denies Helping Amal

NC0805164588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 May 88

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade on 8 May]

[Text] Some private media are still claiming that the 6th Brigade has been participating in certain incidents that are taking place in nationalist areas. The purposes of these claims are known to all. Therefore, the Brigade's command again completely denies what has been disseminated by these media.

Fighting Continues 8 May

NC0805162588 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Security sources have reported that the situation in the southern suburb has flared up violently, and that clashes have resumed between the Amal movement and Hizballah at 1520 today. The clashes, in which all types of weapons are being used, are taking place in the areas of Al-Ghubayrah Square, Al-Musharrafiyah, and Al-Shiyah.

The residential areas in Al-Shiyah are coming under artillery shelling. In addition, intensive sniper fire is being directed at the area of Al-Shiyah and its entrances. Violent explosions are reverberating in various parts of the capital. Meanwhile, contacts at the highest level are underway to halt the deteriorating situation and end the clashes.

Amal movement sources have stated that Hizballah gunmen tried to advance from Hayy Madi in the direction of the Mar Mikhail church where the Amal movement positions are located. This caused clashes to rage on this contact line.

Amal movement sources have also affirmed that Hizballah gunmen went up to the roofs of building in Hayy al-Hajjaj from Al-Shiyah and opened fire at residential areas, and that they also attempted to advance to the cooperative in the area.

Iranians Deny Involvement

NC0805185088 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Iranian Embassy sources have stated that the joint committee today continued to perform its task successfully, without any impediment [in the southern suburb], that all the parties concerned have been responding by facilitating the committee's task, that there has been [word indistinct] to restore normalcy, and that seven centers have been handed over to the Amal movement.

The same sources denied that Revolution Guards had participated in the clashes in the southern suburb. This denial was announced by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam and Ahmad Shuqayr, Amal movement's representative to the joint committee.

Casualty Toll Nears 300

NC0805161588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Fierce clashes involving the use of artillery, rockets, and machineguns have been raging between the Amal movement and Hizballah in the areas of Mar Mikhayil, Al-Musharrafiyah, Harat Hurayk, and Al-Shiyah in the southern suburb since 1520 today. It has been reported that Amal launched a counterattack this afternoon after having brought fresh reinforcements from the area of Ra's al-Nab' under Syrian cover. Amal

has accused Hizballah of starting the clashes this afternoon after its gunmen in Hayy Madi attacked Amal's positions in Hayy Mar Kikhayil.

According to Amal sources, Hizballah gunmen have kidnapped some Amal supporters in the areas under their control and set fire to Amal members' houses in these areas.

According to security sources the clashes so far have claimed about 300 casualties.

Amal Trying To Regain Posts

NC0805183088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 May 88

[Excerpts] The comparative quiet which was restored in the southern suburb lasted only several hours. The situation flared up again this afternoon over an initiative by the Amal movement. It appears that the movement is trying to regain the posts and areas it lost. [passage omitted] The Amal movement is currently advancing under the cover of heavy artillery and rocket fire with logistic support from Syrian forces, which have secured the supply route starting from Ra's al-Nab'. [passage omitted]

Hizballah sources told AFP tonight that battles are now taking place in the areas which are under Amal's control. News agencies said that the Hizballah advance yesterday has redrawn the battle lines, with the frontlines approaching the advanced Syrian positions on the outskirts of the suburb. [passage omitted]

According to an additional report, Hizballah has mananged to take control of four Amal centers in Mar Mikhayil, Marun Misk, and Al-Shiyah, and of the Amal operations center near the Rawdat al-Shahidyan near the entrance to the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

Hizballah sources accused some foreign parties of extending support to the Amal movement and facilitating its activites. They affirmed that Amal has so far been unable to take control of or adance toward any of Hizballah's positions. The sources denied that the Iranian Revolutionary Guards are participating in the battles alongside Hizballah. [passage omitted]

Syria's Kan'an Meets Birri

NC0805183288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the Syrian intelligence service in Lebanon, met with Amal movement leader Minister Nabih Birri this afternoon. The outcome of this meeting is unknown. Kan'an is also scheduled to meet with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

Kan'an Hints at Syrian Entry

NC0905070988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] Having earlier been restricted to Al-Ghubayrah, Harat Hurayk, Hayy Madi, and Burj al-Barajinah, the clashes between Amal and Hizballah spread to most of the other areas in Beirut's southern suburb this morning. The casualty toll has now risen to 89 dead and more than 300 wounded, according to a preliminary hospital count. Internal security sources have reported that since the fighting began at dawn on Friday, clashes of unprecedented violence lasted for 4 hours yesterday. According to the same sources, the cease-fire declared by the Iranian Embassy, which had been reached under the auspices of Iranian diplomats and Syrian officers at 2230 last night, was partly implemented 3 hours after it was due to go into effect. However, the two sides violated it at 0430 today when fighting with artillery, rockets, and tank shells erupted violently.

Amal sources have said that the movement made advances in Al-Ghubayrah and controlled the perimeter of Al-Sahil Hospital and Hayy Madi. However, Hizballah sources assert that the party controls all of its former positions, as well as the positions it took yesterday.

Along with the clashes, a war of statements has raged, each warring party accusing the other of being responsible for resuming the fighting; each directing accusations of kidnappings and killings. Amal has accused the fundamentalists of threatening a Syrian observer and harassing an Iranian Embassy representative, both of whom are members of the committee charged with supervising an end to the fighting. They were harassed while making a tour of Harat Hurayk. Hizballah strongly denied these accusations and stated that the committee reached the area in question while the fighting was particularly violent. A Hizballah source accused Amal of beginning the clashes by opening fire at the residence of Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah in Harat Hurayk, killing one of his guards and wounding another. The source said that Amal exploited the cease-fire to launch an attack from three directions against Hizballah positions in Al-Shiyah, and to open a new front in Burj al-Barajinah. The source added that the fundamentalists who had earlier returned to Amal three positions which they had captured 2 days ago, repulsed the new attacks and recaptured the said positions. Hizballah also accused Amal of killing two of its members yesterday, after kidnapping them the day before. Meanwhile, Amal accused the fundamentalists of killing three of its members in Bi'r al-'Abd, where the main headquarters of Hizballah is located.

Hizballah has accused Amal of kidnapping 18 of its members in Burj al-Barajinah during the past 48 hours, while Amal has asserted that the fundamentalists kidnapped 20 of its members in the same area. Amal also accused the fundamentalists of carrying out a conspiracy

planned by a foreign country. Hizballah responded by describing Minister Nabih Birri, the Amal leader, as a war criminal who has sold himself to the great American devil.

Thus, amid an accusation here and an accusation there, a new cease-fire agreement collapsed last night. It had been reached during an 8-hour meeting at the Iranian Embassy, which was attended by the Iranian ambassadors in Lebanon and Syria, Ahmad Dastmalchian and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari; Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam; and three Syrian military observers, including Lieutenant Amir Tallah.

Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an did not participate in this particular meeting. However, he has met with Amal Leader Nabih Birri and telephoned Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. Later he will meet Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss.

According to West Beirut sources, Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an informed concerned leaders during his contacts with them that he supports a joint security plan between the two warring parties in order to end the fighting. According to these sources, this plan will constitute a first phase, and if it does not succeed, alternatives, foremost of which is a Syrian entry into the suburb, will be seriously considered. [Beirut Domestic Service at 0530 GMT in a similar report adds the following: "According to political sources, Brig Gen Kan'an issued an ultimatum in the wake of last night's escalating battles, demanding that the parties concerned accept a cease-fire and facilitate the work of the committees."]

Fadlallah Appeals For Peace

NC0905091588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The tragic fighting in the southern suburb continues, the number of victims increases, the exodus of people continues, and efforts have so far failed to curb the ongoing clashes between the Amal movement and Hizballah in Hayy Madi, Harat Hurayk, Al-Ghubayrah, and Al-Shiyah. The clashes yesterday involved most sections of the southern suburb. Amal movement sources affirmed that, despite everything, it still supports the appeals to stop the bloodshed and halt the internecine fighting.

A short while ago Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah issued an appeal to the combatants to stop the fighting. He said: I address my appeal for the third time to the brother fighters in the Amal movement and Hizballah to halt this bloodshed, which poses a grave danger to all fateful political positions. The continuation of these destructive battles, which kill innocent civilians, children, women, and elderly, is inadmissible. Many youths are falling; youths we want as a force to fight Israel. The residential areas are not a battlefield. You are free to fight among yourselves, but you are not free to fight among civilians. Stop this mad and futile carnage. Do not assist the ongoing plots aimed at making our internal wars a bridge for peddling suspect solutions.

Cooperate with the security committee to bring about a cease-fire and sit down and discuss all your issues with open hearts and responsible attitudes. Fear God for your present and future, and repress all your motives and enthusiasm for fighting. He also said: I appeal to you with all my heart and from my legal position to lay down your arms and direct them at the enemy that still dominates the entire arena. We call on you all: Respond to the Islamic Iranian initiative, the Syrian Arab overture, and to all sincere people to reach a decisive positive result and stop the fighting. The continuation of this war may thwart all of our internal and external issues. God will be with those who are pious and beneficent.

Inter-Palestinian Fighting Continues in Camps

'Arafat Supporters Winning

NC0605120588 Paris AFP in English 1153 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 6 (AFP)—Fighters from the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) mainstream Fatah group on Friday pushed guerrillas from the dissident Fatah Uprising out to the edges of Shatila refugee camp in southern Beirut, Lebanese police said.

Intermittent exchanges with anti-tank rockets, mortars and automatic weapons echoed around the camp perimeter Friday after the battle resumed following a dawn lull.

Four people were killed and 15 people wounded Thursday when the latest round of clashes erupted between the two groups, according to a police poll. Four people died and 58 were wounded in clashes last weekend.

A Palestinian official whose organization was not involved in the fighting said Fatah Uprising had brought reinforcements north and east of the camp.

The fighting came after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of Fatah, held a reconciliatory meeting April 25 in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who had backed Abu Musa's [Sai'd Musa Muragha] Fatah Uprising.

Syrian Soldiers Said Detained

NC0705161888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] According to a military source in the Shatila camp, Fatah has detained more than 36 Syrian Army personnel during battles inside the camp. This confirms Syrian interference in these battles.

Foreign news agency correspondents note that reinforcements have reached the dissidents, who assembled at two centers in the vicinity of Shatila camp near the positions of the Syrian occupation forces. A Fatah spokesman, who declined to reveal his identity, was quoted this afternoon as saying that the battles could resume at any moment.

Detention of Syrians Denied

NC0805064788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 8 May 88

[Excerpts] The Fatah dissidents have denied that they have used their positions on the mountain to bombard the Shatila camp. [passage omitted]

In another development, a Fatah official source has categorically dismissed media reports that Fatah has detained 36 Syrian soldiers in Shatila. The source maintained that the aim of the report is to sow discord between Fatah and Syria.

Lebanese Sources Note Defeat of 'Zionist' Troops

LD0505154988 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 5, IRNA — The power of faith and Islamic resistance in Lebanon once again disabled the Zionist-war machine and caused the Zionist occupiers to taste a bitter defeat Wednesday.

Yesterday's clashes around Maydun village in western Al-Biqa' ended in the victory of the Islamic resistance forces despite the fact that Zionist troops deployed different types of weaponry and large manpower. The defeat has seriously worried the Zionist rulers. Informed sources described yesterday's fightings as the most intensive one in Lebanon's crisis, in which Zionist troops fired more than 1,500 artillery and mortar shells on Mashghara and 'Ayn al-Tini areas. The intruding forces leveled each and every house on their way by tank.

Meanwhile, the Lebanon's Islamic resistance group today released a new statement saying that the Zionist enemy, who occupied part of Lebanon's soil in the past whenever it wished, tasted a bitter defeat this time.

The Zionist troops, in spite of deploying large military equipment, were forced to retreat with more than 30 dead and many tanks and personnel carriers destroyed, said the statement. It urged all Lebanese Muslims to thwart enemy's plots by their unity because "Zionists know no other language than that of weapons".

Resistance Attacks Israeli-Lahd Patrol 7 May

NC0705091888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Resistance men detonated an explosive charge as a joint patrol of Israeli troops and agent militiamen was passing along the Bayt Yahun-Bra'shit Road at 0730 today. An armored vehicle was destroyed and its passengers were killed or wounded as a result of the blast. Immediately afterward, Israeli troops bombarded the towns of Shaqra, Tibnin, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Haddathah, killing two people and wounding seven others, one seriously.

Resistance Fires Missiles at Metulla Settlement

NC0805055788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Citing Lebanese resistance sources, REUTER has reported that resistance fighters fired five Grad missiles at the Israeli settlement of Metulla last night.

In another development, agent Lahd-owned Middle East Television has broadcast a report that Lahd militiamen have stormed the villages of Kafr Haman and Al-Habbariyah in the Al-'Urqub area. The agent militiamen blew up a cave on the pretext that weapons and explosives belonging to the Lebanese Communist Party were stored in it.

Israelis Fire on Fishing Boat; 1 Wounded

NC0805162588 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] In the South, Zionist gunboats have opened fire on a Lebanese fishing boat off the coast of Tyre, seriously wounding citizen Hasan Tahhan. Tahhan was taken to the Tyre hospital in critical condition.

The enemy gunboats have been continuously patrolling the southern shores following the escalation of resistance operations along the occupied border strip.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Cleared Hostages' Release

NC0605145388 Paris AFP in English 1435 GMT 6 May 88

[By Jacques Charmelot]

[Excerpt] Beirut, May 6 (AFP)—One of Iran's most powerful men, parliamentary Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, gave the green light for the release Wednesday of the last three French hostages in Lebanon, reliable security sources said here Friday.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave the news of Tehran's approval for the release in a telephone conversation with a mediator who arrived in Beirut on April 30, the sources said.

The mediator was named as Razzah Ra'd, a French doctor of Lebanese origin, who has been involved in negotiations to free the French hostages since 1985.

Mr. Ra'd paid several visits to the Iranian Embassy here. He was at the Summerland Hotel, south of the capital, only minutes before the three hostages, Marcel Carton, Marcel Fontaine, and Jean-Paul Kauffmann, arrived on the scene in a car driven by a Moslem cleric.

The hostages were then handed over to Syrian security officials.

The mediator was due to return to Paris on board the same private jet as the hostages and two French Interior Ministry officials, Jean-Louis Marchiani and Alexandre Safa.

But he was stopped at a Syrian checkpoint and arrived at Beirut International Airport too late to board the Lear jet, which touched down in the Lebanese capital for only five minutes.

The hostages were whisked out of Beirut with the help of the Syrian security service. The Syrian Army has controlled Moslem West Beirut and the airport since February 1987.

The whole operation was coordinated by the chief of Syria's state security services, Iyad Mahmud, who is based in Lebanon, the sources here said. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in an interview with a French provincial radio, Mr. Ra'd said that "France ceded nothing at all" in its negotiations for the hostages' release.

He said the talks had been conducted "with the Iranians and pro-Iranians".

"It was in Iran's own interest to break its diplomatic isolation, and the first priority in order to improve and restore relations with France was to help us free the hostages.

"It is the result of teamwork and each member of this team had a specific task. It's a bit like a suitcase which has several keys and can only open if all the keys function at the same time."

Mr. Ra'd said he had been to Lebanon several times during the months in which the negotiations went on.

"A month ago, we were hoping to bring the hostages back. But we were prevented from doing so by events: The Kuwait Airways hijack, fighting in the Gulf, clashes in Lebanon and also statements by the Syrian businessman 'Umran Adham which hindered us slightly in our business".

"Before the kidnappers would free the hostages, Iran had to give the green light. That much was quite clear", Mr. Ra'd said.

France, Iran To Resume Relations 'Within 40 Days'

NC0605182988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 6 May 88

[Excerpt] Sources close to the officials who handled the negotiations to release the French hostages Fontaine, Carton, and Kauffmann have said that France and Iran will restore diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level within 40 days of the hostages' release. [passage omitted]

Security Source Cited on Higgins Kidnapping

JN081742 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 7 May 88 p 19

[Excerpt] A well-informed security source in Beirut has emphasized to AL-QABAS that U.S. Colonel William Richard Higgins, who was abducted near Sidon in southern Lebanon, was moved to Beirut's southern suburb days after he was kidnapped. According to the source, Higgins was transported in the car of the man in charge of central security in the Amal movement, Mustafa al-Dayrani, who was subsequently dismissed from his post, having been implicated in the abduction on behalf of Hizballah.

Until his dismissal, along with other leading figures in the aftermath of Higgins' abduction, Al-Dayrani had led the fundamentalist wing of Amal. There has been more than one attempt to move the American officer in a diplomatic car of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, the source added. But Da'ud Da'ud, head of Amal's Executive Committee and the strongman in southern Lebanon, ordered that even diplomatic cars be searched, creating tension that culminated in a series of bloody, severe clashes with Hizballah and his expulsion from southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

President al-Asad Receives Kurdish Leader 7 May
JN071846 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] At noon today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Jalal Talabani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan].

Released Palestinians Not Political Detainees
JN050721 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 May 88 p 1

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Beirut, Tunis—Informed Palestinian sources confirm that the number of Palestinian detainees recently released by the Syrian authorities totals 120 detainees. The confirmation follows a report broadcast by the Lebanese Phalangist radio saying that only 12 detainees who were seriously ill were released.

However, Palestinian sources have stated to AL-ANBA' that most of those released had been held on criminal, not political, charges. The sources add that Fatah Central Committee member Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, alias Abu al-Hawl, was apparently disatisfied when he saw the list of released detainees.

During his meeting with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had promised to release Palestinian detainees held in Syrian prisons in response to a request by Fatah Central Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu Mahir.

Damascus Radio Cites Chirac Thanks to Al-Asad
JN052057 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has expressed his thanks to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad for Syria's efforts which culminated in the successful resolution of the issue of the French hostages held in Lebanon. Chirac was quoted by news agency reports as saying he is grateful for the personal efforts of President al-Asad and the special attention he gave to end this painful episode out of a concern for humanitarian principles and values.

Chirac was speaking today to television and radio correspondents as he received the three French hostages.

Commentary Views Upcoming Shultz Mideast Tour
JN081454 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: With any new move in the region, the U.S. Administration is wanting to give the impression that such a move cannot be made unless the terms for its success, or part of these terms, are available. Washington's announcement that George Shultz will pay another visit to the region on 3 June following the Moscow summit and that such a tour will be confirmed in 1 week aims to hint that the confirmation of this visit is linked to the clarification of political facts regarding the U.S. secretary of state's plan—facts that may pave the way for the resumption of Shultz' efforts in the region.

The U.S. Administration's magnification of the Shultz tour and its efforts to attach to it better results than those attained in his previous tours constitute the U.S. concern that may be part of its tactics designed to shuffle cards in the region and depict U.S. policy and plans as proceeding on an unobstructed road. However, what is important in searching for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is not the spread of illusions or the propagation of rotten political merchandise like the Camp David accords. This is because regardless of the beautification operations, these accords will not deceive anyone nor will they be able to find new soil on which to grow, particularly after the abrogation of the 17 May agreement—an agreement that was a U.S.- prepared Lebanese formula of the Israeli-Egyptian separate peace deal.

What Shultz carried to the Middle East under the headline of a comprehensive settlement was not outside the framework of both temporary settlements and the Camp David provisions on a limited autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, nor was it outside an international conference that is devoid of powers and that will be a preliminary framework for direct negotiations. Such negotiations will abrogate the international resolutions and remove the essence of conflict in the region—a conflict that resulted from the aggressive and expansionist Israeli policy that also led to the deportation of the Palestinian Arab people from their own land, the occupation of further Arab territories, and the intensification of the Middle East situation as planned by the Zionist enemy with direct support from the United States with the aim of achieving new expansionist steps that will realize the enemy's Zionist Torah plan and achieve Washington's schemes of imposing its hegemony.

What the U.S. Administration is offering has short-term and long-term objectives which are not different from what President Reagan named the Camp David option on the eve of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. However, the U.S. Administration deliberately ignores the destiny of this option in Lebanon. It also ignores the facts resulting from the sweeping popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories. Meanwhile, Washington did not conceal the fact that its current move in the Middle East is a result of this uprising. It also admitted that the situation cannot return to what it was before the uprising erupted 5 months ago.

It goes without saying that there is a large difference between the U.S. Administration working to push events toward the revival and marketing of the Camp David

accords on the one hand and the Arab and international efforts on the other—efforts which affirm that peace in the region will only be achieved by recognizing the firm national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, regaining all occupied Arab territories, and punishing the Zionist aggressor for the savage crimes perpetrated against Arabs since Zionist terrorism was introduced into the Middle East at the beginning of this century.

Washington's insistence on a blind bias toward the Zionist enemy as well as its stand in the face of Arabs, international will, and the UN resolutions may keep a just and lasting peace away for some time but not forever. This is because the Arab future will never be at the disposal of the Israeli occupation or U.S. hegemony.

Commentary Predicts 'Deterioration' of Israel

JN061501 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel continues to run away from the facts that slap it sharply in the face wherever it may go. It covers up this blatant and shameful escape with more aggressions here and there, and with more limited or unlimited invasions, and torture and violent actions. If this escape route indicates anything, then it indicates shameful weakness rather than strength. In fact, this escape confirms the continuous collapse of Zionist thought and policy and its decline into an abyss.

In its continuous aggression, display of power, and violent attacks on civilians and defenseless people, Israel is repeating the same fascist methods and the same unsuccessful practices. Israel also uses the same weapons and the self-same old sentences and expressions that have become despised, loathed, and rejected by the international community.

All aggressive, ignorant powers have done the same as Israel is now doing and they have committed the same crimes. These powers went through stages and periods exactly like the one Israel is now going through. The stage the Zionist entity is now going through proves this. The Zionist entity, at this stage, is trying with everything it has to preserve at any price the brittle cover hiding the shaken and crumbling Zionist thought, its institutions, illusions, and expansionism. The hands of the Arab resistance and the Arab desire to remain steadfast have reached this brittle covering. This covering is too weak to go on forever in the face of the strikes of the Arab liberation will. It is also too weak to preserve until eternity Israeli arrogance and haughtiness beyond the reach of the law and the judgments of the international community.

Israel plans and dreams that enlarging the arena of its aggressions and increasing the number of victims of these operations will keep it under a halo of might and power, but this will not be the case. The Arab region is now going through the age of Arab resistance with all its insistence and virility and its determination to liberate every inch of occupied Arab land. It is the age of the international community's support for this resistance, its legal rights and its steadfast powers. Israel is greatly mistaken if it thinks that the age of the policy of terrorism, arrogance, and bluffing may go on or reestablish itself or have some sort of position in the Middle East.

Arab resistance to Zionist thought and expansion projects will remain the only power capable of chasing the enemy and striking it forcefully and punishing it for its crimes and sins against our Arab nation.

Neither Israel's aggressions nor the Zionist sabre-rattling in Southern Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip or anyplace else for that matter will change or alter the facts. One of these facts is that, just like any invading power, Israel will undergo steady deterioration, weakness, and erosion. Another fact is that Arab resistance will grow steadily until Zionist terror and occupation, along with Zionist racism, expansionism, and aggressiveness, are rooted out.

Nothing at all can possibly reverse the tide of history: Neither the blind U.S. support of Israel nor the joint U.S.-Zionist schemes, nor yet the oppression of the innocent and the defenseless in the West Bank, Gaza, and Southern Lebanon by those whose hands are dripping with black, bloody hatred of Arabs and humanity. We are certain of our masses' growing capacity to stand their ground and take on the occupiers until liberation and victory. We are equally confident that an equitable regional peace will be made by our Arab nation rather than by murderers, criminals, and the terrorist, invading Zionists.

Afghanistan

Najibullah's Visit, Activities in India Reported

Interview on Indian Television

LD0705063988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] New Delhi, May 6, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, granted an interview with the correspondent of the Indian nation-wide television today.

Following is the text of the interview.

Question: You have come to New Delhi at the invitation of Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India, to discuss the situation emanated from the Geneva accords. Please explain the results of your talks and how much was the talks successful?

Dear friends, the citizens of the friendly country of India:

On behalf of the people of Afghanistan I wish you peace, prosperity and happiness.

The great people of India have embarked on the historical path of dependable progress and renovation, greatly contributing to the struggles of the world people for equality and justice. India was the first country that broke chains of colonialism and dealt crushing blows with the entire colonial system of imperialism.

The great son of your people, the builder of new India Jawahar Lal Nehru founded the principles of non-alignment.

This movement turned into a powerful factor in the struggle against imperialism and neo-colonialism, against agression and force.

Today India is one of the renowned competent leaders of the orderly and just movement in the world, that is, to become free from use of force and nuclear weapons.

In the efforts of the people of India the wisdom of the past eras has been identified with the humanism and sound thoughts of today and tomorrow.

Non-violence must become the foundation stone of human life. It is a historic and law-governed fact that this idea induced into the "Delhi Declaration" signed by the USSR.

We, in your beautiful land feel that we stay in the house of friend as a guest. Friendship between our two peoples is based on firm foundations, and consolidated by the common historical destiny. This friendship has stood the test of time and has tempered in the crucible of common struggle.

We are very satisfied with the hospitality accorded to us in the land of the friendly people of India. The present visit by the Afghan delegation, we believe, will turn into a new phase in the development of relations between the two countries.

The peoples of India and Afghanistan are united by traditional ties of friendship, mutual respect and love. These ties have firm historical rules. Our peoples are also united by their common efforts towards peace, equality and mutual respect. We have common views on the basic problems of the present world affairs.

Our nations, indeed, enjoy huge intact potentialities to be tapped on for mutually beneficial co-operation in various fields ranging from international political affairs to broad cultural contacts.

Economics between our countries has, in fact, just started. [sentence as received] A prideful mission has fallen to the lot of our generation. We are to cement the foundations of these mutually beneficial economic cooperations and ties.

There are similar tasks lying before you in areas of education and eradication of illiteracy. We can successfully cooperate in the development of different scientific fields. Medical sciences in India justifably has won recognition in the world.

There are innumerable areas of cooperation. Cultural exchanges can bring about useful and positive results. The Indian art attracts a wide interest in Afghanistan. We would be glad to welcome your artists, the messengers of peace and friendship, in our country as our dearest friends. The artistic festivals in our countries can serve, as a good basis, for wide human rleations among the youth. Our governments share views on the security problems of the world.

Today the objective possibilities of a turnabout towards a secure and stable world are unfolding before you. The constructive dialogue conducted between the USSR and the United States serves this end as the first steps to a reduction in the stockpiles of mass destruction weapons.

The new political thinking ever-increasingly proves its righteousness in relations among peoples.

India is one of the forerunners with a recognized authority in the movement for a secure world. Various constructive initiatives have been born in the capital of your great country to which enormous homage and attention are paid by the world community.

The Delhi Six appeal and the Delhi declaration on the principles of a nuclear-weapons-free and non-violent world have won prestige in the contemporary world.

We well realize our great responsibility that our governments and peoples are to shoulder in the struggle for a durable peace and security in Asia. Our vast continent is today housing large nuclear stockpiles, and the threatening conflicts created as a result of the neoglobalistic strategies have not discontinued. The peace-seeking forces in Asia should concentrate all their efforts to keep the continent free from nuclear weapons.

Afghanistan will do all it can to promote the processes of consolidation, security and confidence-building in Asia. We believe that the Asian nations can make a move towards this objective through entering regional, bilateral and multilateral treaties. The peaceful efforts carried by our great friend and neighbour, India, brings happiness to the peoples of Asia.

It is an open secret that the tackling of regional disputes brings about internal stability to the Asian countries, and speeds up the efforts at the solution of a large number of social problems in the interests of their peoples.

The Afghan people have recently marked the tenth anniversary of their revolution. In the post-revolution years we have had great achievements in our campaigns against backwardness, illiteracy and disease. We could have done much better, had it not been for the undeclared war imposed by our adversaries. The war brought us enormous calamities.

The national reconciliation policy started a year and half ago is a well-thought idea close to the minds of millions of people who may go the path of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Afghan people keep with high esteem the impression given by Gandhi and Nehru. 'Abdul Ghafar Khan, who was laid at rest in Jalalabad with full respect was one of their consistent supporters and established leader of the Pashtuns' national liberation movement. It bears enough relevance that he is being called the "Frontier Gandhi" by the writers and the people.

The arduous and long-lasting Geneva talks with Pakistan ended last month. According to the agreements reached in Geneva, Pakistan is to undertake not to allow any destructive action on its territory against Afghanistan. Before the Afghan people a promising perspective is to be opened for peace and tranquillity in the country. We have to do much for rehabilitation of what has been destroyed by the war. We are to tackle socio-economic development problems.

We have planned to considerably broaden our foreign economic relations. To implement our peaceful plans we need the cooperation of human community.

We are hopeful that friendly India will take part in our economic development plans.

We are at the conviction that the growth of mutually beneficial economic, cultural and scientific relations will not only be useful for our peoples but will become an important factor for the regional and Asian stability.

The Geneva accords bring forth a new situation in the region. Yet much work lies ahead for normalization of the situation and creating a climate of confidence and cooperation among nations of the region. Here the goodwill on the part of the leaders of our countries is an imperative, hence there is the need for ending the tension in relations among neighbours.

India and Afghanistan reiterate the universal and unremitting principles on relations among states. These principles are: mutual respect for independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality of rights and non-interference in the internal affairs of states.

India can set a good example for the peoples of the world who fight against backwardness, injustice and violence in the international affairs. The peoples themselves choose their friends. We take pride in having wise and diligent friends as Indian people are.

The Afghan people wish for their friends great successes in building a new prosperous and strong India.

May the friendship between our two peoples remain forever.

Holds News Conference 6 May

LD0805064288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 8 May 88

["Speech by President Najibullah at Press Conference"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, May 7, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan prior to his departure from India participated at a press conference held in New Delhi on Friday [6 May] and replied to the questions raised by journalists.

At the outset of the press conference, President Najibullah talked about the process of implementation of national reconciliation in the Republic of Afghanistan and Geneva accords.

President Najibullah in his speech said:

Ladies and gentlemen,

During our visit to your beautiful and great country India we had fruitful meetings with his excellency the president and His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister, which took palce in a friendly atmospehre of understanding.

Both countries exchanged views on mutual relations, the situation in the region and issues of interests in the world and held identical views on many problems.

My countrymen are sincerely pleased with the deep interest of Republic of India for establishing peace and tranquility in the territory of Afghanistan. The peoples of our countries have been historic neighbours in the Asian Continent and for centuries they have maintained close relations in the political, economic and cultural spheres. In my country the remnants of art of [word indistinct] which emered under the influence of culture of ancient India, are carefully preserved.

The heroic and traditional struggle for independence against the colonial system of British imperialism brings closer the Afghans and the Indians. The rise of guardians (sepahian), the valorous resistance of Pashtun tribes against colonialists, the three patriotic wars of Afghanistan against British occupationists are regarded as glorious pages in the history of our national liberation movement. The Afghans [word indistinct] the Indians have extended the hands of friendship and brotherhood to each other in difficult moments of their life.

In 1920s the reformist King Amanullah Khan gave asylum in Kabul to the Indian national government in exile. The people of Afghanistan who for the first time broke the chains of British colonialism in 1919 sincerely welcomed the declaration of independence of India in 1947. Friendly relations between our countries are growing with the passage of every day. A vivid example of this friendship is the establishment of Indira Gandhi Child Health Institute in Kabul as well as other projects.

In the course of talks further development of Afghan-Indian cooperation in the spheres of irrigation, public health, trade, higher and professional education were all-aspectedly deliberated. The possibilities for the utilization of the present potentials were stressed. Consolidation of contacts among the economic circles of the two countries particularly among private sectors were reviewed.

Identical views on most of the major international affairs also link India and Afghanistan. Both countries are active members of Non-Aligned Movement, Jawahar Lal Nehru, the great son of India being a co-founder of it. Both states are persistently and resolutely struggling for normalisation of the situation in the region and consolidation of global peace and security.

Our meeting with Mr. Prime Minister showed the concurrence of views on key international issues and underlined the need for the creation of a peaceful atmosphere and mutual security in Asia.

The time will make long-drawn conclusions from the results of these meetings and talks which took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. But even now it could be confidently stated that a new chapter has been already turned in the history of traditonal friendship between Afghanistan and India.

Distinguished journalists,

Over the recent months the Afghan issue has, as in the past, been in the focus of attention of the world. Today the world has farther focussed on the situation in and around the country.

Three weeks ago the arduous and six-year long Geneva talks on the key questions of Afghan problem was concluded. Foreign ministers and four countries signed thereafter the instruments of historic significance. In Geneva both Afghanistan and Pakistan undertook commitments emanating from the legal documents which rule out all kinds of interference in each other's affairs.

We are hopeful that a sincere implication by provisions of the agreement on non-interference, the material groundworks for the intervention against the Republic of Afghanistan and tension in the region will be liquidated, and peace and stability shall be consolidated.

The conclusion of the Geneva accords removes all the barriers on the way of repatriation of our compatriots, and provides dependable conditions for their return. A considerable number of them have so far repatriated, enjoying all the rights as equal citizens.

The return of the Soviet military limited contingent is one of the component parts of the political settlement. Soviet soldiers and officers rendered valuably assisted the Afghans in their struggle for safeguarding independence and territorial integrity of the country, and for defending the rights and freedoms of the people.

The USSR and the United States are the states-guarantors for the Geneva accords. The guarantees taken by the two big powers of the world leads us to believe in victory for the cause of peace on the one hand and on the other helps to speed up the process of national reconciliation.

Availing the opportunity on my people's behalf I would like to whole heartedly express my gratitude to the UN Secretary General Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar and his personal envoy Mr. Diego Cordovez for their contribution in the peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. I also wish success for the UN observer group in controlling the compliance with the commitments. All our true friends, India and USSR among them, are earnestly waiting for the emerging of a strong, peaceful, non-aligned, and a neutral Afghanistan, friend to all its neighbours and all Muslim countries of world irrespective of their social systems based upon mutual respect and non-interference, cooperating with regional countries and desiring a tranquil world.

The signing of the Geneva accord complies with the spirit of the historical Delhi declaration and is a continuation of the political line declared by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India and Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC one and half years ago.

The importance of political step taken in Geneva goes beyond the limits of region and in the present period it acquires a universal and global essence. This opens the way to peaceful solution of other regional conflicts not only in Asia but also in Africa and Latin America.

The programme of national reconciliation that has been initiated and implemented since 15 months is a foundation on which the political solution of the situation inside Afghanistan has been built. The signing of Geneva accords in its turn have facilitated and made irreversible the process of national reconciliation. The months which have elapsed have brought about results which we would not think about during the years of intensive armed struggle against the opposition. 3,500 villages have come over to the side of the popular power through peaceful means. 60,000 previous armed opposition men stopped resistance. 140,000 immigrants have returned to Afghanistan. But today this figure is not sufficient. Today, we expect more from the national reconciliation and our optimism has real grounds.

The present leadership of the country pursues this view that pluralism is a tradition of Afghan society should reflect, under the multi-party system, the progressive impact of various economic institutions over various social strata and national and ethnic groups.

Forty-five days ago, the elections to parliament, National Assembly, i.e. the highest legislative body in the Republic of Afghanistan was launched. The first nationwide democratic elections were participated in by one million and six hundred thousand individuals. Out of 800 candidates 234 of them were elected to the National Assembly, including the Hindu and Sikh representatives. Some constituencies were located in the areas which were under opposition control. Their rights to send deputies to the National Assembly have been reserved. We have kept open the doors of constructive negotiation and dialogue with the opposition.

The National Assembly is assigned to give vote of confidence to a government in which several posts have been proposed for the opposition since July 1987. The "seven alliance" has been rejecting our constructive proposal. With this action they have lost their allies dooming themselves to political suicide. However, it is not too late for these individual to think about the sufferings of Afghans and take a step welcoming peace and cooperate in building an advanced, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Afghanistan. Thank you for your attention.

Answers Journalists' Questions

LD0805223688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 8 May 88

[Report on President Najibullah's news conference in New Delhi on 6 May; questions in English with superimposed Dari translation; identities of questioners supplied by the Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto report on the press conference at 1130 GMT ON 8 May—recorded]

[Text] [Najibullah] I will reply to your questions with pleasure.

[NEW YORK CITY TRIBUNE] Mr President, last week some 54 journalists signed a petition for the release of two of our colleagues—the Italian, Fausto Bilaslovo, and the Frenchman, Alain Guillo. You mentioned in your opening speech that media attention has been on Afghanistan. In our view, if you take some action in this connection it would help attract much more attention. What is your comment on this?

[Najibullah] Fortunately, I have read your petition. You stressed two subjects in that petition: first about those people who are legally in areas of combat operations, and secondly about those who take part illegally in combat and hostile activities. Unfortunately, these two persons who were arrested had participated in combat activities. They entered our country not legally, but without the permission of our state, with the counterrevolutionary elements and took part in terrorist, destructive, and armed illegal activities. Alain Guillo illegally entered our country nine times.

[INDIAN EXPRESS] I want to know when you stepped on Indian soil what expectations you had? Now that your visit is ending, how many of these expectations have been fulfilled?

[Najibullah] When we arrived in the great land of India we had hope in our hearts for mutual understanding and goodwill, joint efforts, and full harmony concerning the national issues of our countries, on regional and international issues, and on mutual cooperation in the economic, social and cultural fields. Fortunately, we have achieved these aims in a favorable and comprehensive manner. We can call this visit a historic visit which forms a new page in Afghanistan-India relations. The talks with the state leadership and with all the delegations have been heartwarming. The deep and friendly talks impressed my friends and me especially. This visit will not be forgotten.

[(Rajendra Sarin), editor of P.O.T.—expansion unknown] The future of peace is now connected more to Afghan-Pakistani relations. Now, when the full solution for the resolving of the issue has been found, how do you assess the future of your relations with Pakistan and what is your view concerning the Durand line between Pakistan and Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] As I mentioned before, free, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan seeks friendly relations with all its neighbors, provided that in practice the other side also completely fulfills its responsibility concerning the implementation of the substance of the Geneva accords.

As far as the issue of the so-called Durand Line is concerned, it has a historic background. This unnatural line was imposed on Afghanistan in 1893 by British colonialism. Our stand is decisive regarding this issue and we will not retreat even 1 inch. You can read the document of mutual understanding on noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, where our stance has been laid out and which Pakistan fortunately has signed.

[(Naryn-e Sandakian)] When will the former king of Afghanistan return to the country and what role do you have in mind for him?

[Najibullah] If you study carefully Zahir Shah's remarks on 15 April and in early May, they show signs that this political personality has become active in the political sphere. We have mentioned several times that the national reconciliation policy does not exclude any political or social personality. They have the right to return to the homeland and the right to political freedom and participation in the coalition government and in state administration.

[THE NEW YORK TIMES] As you mentioned in your opening speech, the seven-party alliance has rejected your proposals concerning national reconciliation. I have a two-part question regarding this: Are you ready to take further measures such as leaving [words indistinct] of the PDPA in the future interim government of Afghanistan or do you want to resign from your post in order to accelerate the process? Since those groups have said that they would continue their war against your government if there is no political solution, what is your assessment of the capability of your security forces to protect your government?

[Najibullah] First, I should mention that the seven groups stances on dialogue and negotiations and the national reconciliation policy are not united. At present they are divided into two sides—the extremists and the moderates. We hope that with logic and a wise sense of responsibility, those who really think realistically in accordance with the situation will join us in the national reconciliation process. The role that these political groups will play in the future coalition government is, I think, principally linked with how much political influence and forces they have. However, there can be understanding and consultations in face-to-face negotiations on all the issues.

In connection with my resignation, you are aware that we held a Grand Assembly in November, which approved the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan and elected the president. The term of the president, in accordance with the Constitution, has been determined as 7 years.

In connection with their continuing the warfare and bloodshed, I think events have shown that the Republic of Afghanistan has carried out fewer combat operations during the more than 1 year since the declaration of national reconciliation. We have not made maximum use of our military resources and potential. Events have shown that only relying on military means is not logical. I hope that they also feel that peaceful and conciliatory methods can be victorious. If some people do not desire a peaceful solution, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are ready to inflict crushing blows on them.

[Unidentified Indian correspondent] Based on the talks you had with His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi, what role can India play in these issues? If India plays a role in the national reconciliation process, will it have any role in the return of King Zahir Shah to your country? What role will India have in regaining membership for Afghanistan in the regional pacts?

[Najibullah] If I may speak frankly, India can play a major role in both cases. Fortunately we have reached a mutual understanding, both about the internal affairs of our countries and on international affairs. India can assist Afghanistan in talks and consultations with Zahir Shah and in influencing the moderate groups outside the country and opposition groups inside the country. In the international arena, not only can India assist Afghanistan in regaining its membership, but also in bringing about mutual understanding, harmony, and joint efforts in all spheres. India has especially great credibility and prestige in the Nonaligned Movement; and resolving the Afghanistan issue will contribute to resolving other regional conflicts. India's prestige and crediblity can help it take effective and useful measures to ensure international peace and resolve other issues.

I must say with pride that fortunately His Excellency Rajiv Gandhi, in connection with India's stand on resolving the situation around Afghanistan, expressed his support for our nation's actions. We sensed heartfelt warmth in India and much love and cordiality. This will not be forgotten. I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to you. These difficult days will end and time will pass. Without doubt, peace and security will be established in Afghanistan. And when the people of Afghanistan and its future generations, in a climate of tranquility, prosperity, and well being, go through these pages of history and see who our friends were during the difficult days, India will undoubtedly shine forth then.

Returns From New Delhi

LD0605164188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 May 88

[Excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, who paid an official and friendly visit to New Delhi at the head of a high-ranking delegation at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister R. Gandhi and the Indian leadership, returned to Kabul today at 1730.

He was welcomed at Kabul airport by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, and members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Addresses Politburo on India Visit
LD0605191788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held this afternoon. Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke at the session about the Afghan delegation's visit to the Republic of India.

Esteemed Najibullah pointed out that the visit was a historic event in the strengthening and consolidation of Afghan-Indian ties. It opened up broad and new possibilities to further strengthen these ties in the economic and cultural spheres. The Afghan delegation was welcomed in a worthy manner at a high state and governmental level. The friendly and warm meetings with His Excellency President Shri R. Venkataraman and His Excellency Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi took place in a climate of friendship and understanding. During its stay, the Afghan delegation held meetings with eminent Indian political and state personalities in New Delhi.

Esteemed Najibullah participated in a press conference of Indian and foreign journalists and replied to many questions on various aspects of the life and activities of the Afghan people since the Geneva accords were signed.

Esteemed Najibullah stressed the special and historic importance of Afghanistan's friendship with India, India's eminent role in the Nonaligned Movement and in strengthening peace in the region and all over the world, and its positive role in ensuring the Geneva accords. He pointed out the Afghan people's deep feelings of respect and appreciation for the people of India.

The president and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee informed the Politburo that all the meetings, conversations, and talks took place in a climate of sincere and full understanding. Identical views were expressed on the issues linked with the political situation around Afghanistan, the situation in the region in general in the Asian Continent, and further all-round cooperation between Afghanistan and India.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo highly assessed the results of the work and activities the Afghan delegation, led by Esteemed Najibullah, carried out and wished progress and prosperity for the people of great India.

Pakistani Accusations on Refugee Return Refuted
LD0805195688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman made the following reply to the recent irresponsible utterances by a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman:

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman recently claimed that the Afghan side is not taking necessary measures toward providing facilities for the return of refugees to their country. These groundless allegations, which are being made in order to mislead public opinion, are far from the truth and are considered another design for creating obstacles for the refugees' return to their country.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with the policy of national reconciliation and in realizing its national and humanitarian mission for the returning compatriots, in line with the pledges it made in the bilateral agreement with Pakistan concerning the voluntary return of the refugees, has undertaken specific and practical measures.

For more than 1 year now necessary measures toward providing all-around legal guarantees and facilities concerning the refugees' return to their country, have been put into practice. The measures which have been taken in this regard, cover the political, social, and economic aspects. The Afghan Government has informed our compatriots inside and outside the country of these measures through a variety of means. The return and resettlement of more than 100,000 compatriots is a manifestation of this fact.

Also in consideration of prospects for their return en masse, receiving centers and registration facilities (?at the points) of return have been (?prepared) and services and necessary tools have been provided. In addition, transportation for the transfer of the returnees and their goods to their homes and the provision of material opportunities, peaceful work, and their [word indistinct] attraction to the process of the country's reconstruction have been undertaken. Specific tasks have been given to various state organs.

Additionally, in accordance with the bilateral agreements on the unimpeded return of refugees, the Republic of Afghanistan has expressed its readiness to create mixed commissions with Pakistan for organizing and coordinating the supervision of activities which should maintain the voluntary, organized, and peaceful return of refugees. However, Pakistan so far has not undertaken measures concerning the meeting of its pledges emanating from the accords.

Moreover, in accordance with Article 6 of the accord on the voluntary return of the refugees between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and in order to attract broad cooperation, the Republic of Afghanistan has

signed an agreement with the UN High Commission for Refugees [UNHCR]. Under the agreements, a UNHCR bureau will be opened in Afghanistan in the near future. Notwithstanding all their claims, the Pakistani authorities so far have not met their obligations in this regard and have not signed an agreement.

We believe that in considering our people's great need for a lasting peace, which is in the interests of all the countries in the region, and in particular the fact that the Geneva accords have (?brought closer) to realization the desires of the peoples of the region for peace, the Pakistani authorities, instead of resorting to hostile propaganda which only results in the (?aggravation) of the situation, should make every effort to see that the Geneva accords are realized and should refrain from every action which damages the process of their implementation.

We hope that Pakistan, in consideration of the [word indistinct] of the agreements, will provide necessary facilities for the refugees' unhindered return to their country.

Recent Mujahidin Combat Operations Reported

Soviet Supply Center Attacked

BK0705023288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Reports from across the border say that the Afghan mujahidin launched a missile attack on the biggest Soviet military supply center at (Qalageh) in Baghlan Province of Afghanistan, killing and wounding several Soviet-Kabul soldiers and damaging 4 tanks and 18 military vehicles. The mujahidin also destroyed a security post.

In another clash at the Baghlan-Konduz highway last week, the mujahidin damaged a Soviet-Kabul tank and a military vehincle, according to reports.

8 PDPA Members Killed

BK0805025188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin attacked a ruling party office in Qandahar city, killing eight party office holders and injuring many. With rockets and hand grenades the mujahidin also destroyed an armored car which was parked nearby for the protection of the office. Two party office holders and some party workers were captured.

The mujahidin also attacked a military convoy which was passing through the vicinity of Nad-e Ali town, destroying a tank and an armored car. They fired missiles at Asadabad town in Konarha Province, killing 4 and injuring 12.

Shahr-e Now Garrison Occupied

BK0805122188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1209 GMT 8 May 88

[Excerpt] Islamabad, May 8 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas Sunday occupied a key garrison abandoned by government troops after fierce fighting in eastern Afghanistan that left heavy casualties on both sides, rebel sources said.

"Mujahidin (guerrillas) have entered Chamkani District and also taken control of the Shahr-e Now garrison," sources in the resistance alliance said, adding that the last of the government troops had left Shahr-e Now on Saturday.

The garrison in Chamkani is located about 28 miles (45 kilometres) from the Afghanistan-Pakistan border along a route used by mujahidin guerrillas on forays into Afghanistan.

Rebel sources said the garrison had been the centre of fierce fighting since the evacuation operation began late last month after the signing April 14 of the Geneva peace accord on a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

They added that the mujahidin fighters had killed more than 130 Afghan soldiers and militiamen since some 1,200 troops of the Afghan Army's 18th Brigade began pulling out of the Shahr-e Now garrison.

Soviet troops and war planes took part in the evacuation and Soviet aircraft bombed nearby rebel positions, killing some 40 mujahidin guerrillas, including an Arab volunteer, the sources said.

Another 80 guerrillas were wounded in fierce fighting, they said adding that 110 Afghan troops, including 16 officers, had surrendered to the mujahidin.

The guerrillas took over the garrison Sunday once all the Afghan Government troops had moved out but a further 40 rebels were killed by anti-personnel mines planted in Shahr-e Now cantonment by the withdrawing forces.

An alliance communique said: "The entire area is now liberated," adding that the Chamkani District was completely free of Afghan Government troops. [passage omitted]

'Extremists' Attack Bus, Kill 4 in Konarha

LD0705163188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that the extremist criminals, opposed to the peace and tranquillity of our compatriots, committed another savage deed yesterday in Konarha Province, martyring 4 of our compatriots and injuring another 12. The criminals fired

rockets at a civilian bus carrying compatriots to Asadabad city to purchase goods needed for Ramadan. The injured were sent immediately to Asadabad Hospital by the security forces. Their condition is improving.

India

Further Reportage, Comment on Najibullah Visit

Discusses Durand Line, Aid

BK0705051888 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 May 88

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said that India will give all help to Afghanistan in its national reconciliation program. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that a team from Afghanistan will very soon visit New Delhi to finalize the modalities for such assistance. Asked about newspaper reports on the import of heavy water, Mr Gandhi said India has enough of this and there is no need to get it from outside. He was talking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house] soon after the departure of the Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, this afternoon. During the day, the Afghan delegation, led by Dr Najibullah, held final round of discussions in New Delhi. [passage omitted]

Before his departure for Kabul, the Afghan leader addressed a news conference in New Delhi. He said India can play a major role in national reconciliation in Afghanistan. This would include bringing back former King Zahir Shah to Afghanistan. He, however, said that the ex-ruler can participate in the government when he returns. Dr Najibullah described his talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, as very fruitful. At the news conference, the Afghan leader talked about the controversial Durand Line and the role India can play in national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

[Begin Najibullah recording in Pashto fading into English translation] So far as we are concerned with the so-called Durand Line, I would like to tell you that this issue has its past records in the history of 19th century. This is a line that had been forcefully imposed. This is the line that had been forcefully and artificially imposed on Afghanistan contrary to the will of the people of our country, and our position toward it is resolute, and we have so far retreated even not one inch backward considering our position. And if you just have the opportunity to have a look on the instrument signed in Geneva on the noninterference and nonintervention in the each other's affairs, you would find that our position there had been inducted and the Pakistani signature is under it.

In the international arena, India can not only cooperate in the revival [as heard] of the membership of Afghanistan in the SAARC regional cooperation group, but, in the meantime, it could play its rightful role in cooperating with Afghanistan in the international gatherings and in coordinating the kind of international positions of the both countries in those gatherings, particularly for the fact that India enjoys a very authentic and prestigious position in the Nonaligned Movement. There will be a new prosperous Afghanistan in the future and the future generations of Afghanistan will turn back the pages of the hard moment, and hard times, and arduous life that the people had, and they would certainly remember as who stood by the people of Afghanistan at those hard and arduous days. [end recording]

The Afghan president was given a ceremonial send-off this afternoon after his 3-day official visit to India. He was seen off, among others, by the president, the prime minister, his cabinet colleagues, and diplomats.

Before his departure, Dr Najibullah told newsmen that Mr Rajiv Gandhi has accepted an invitation to visit Afghanistan.

Refuses To Release Journalists

BK0605163088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] New Delhi, May 6 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah on Friday rejected a petition submitted by foreign correspondents in Kabul requesting a pardon for two Western journalists jailed for espionage and subversion.

Fifty-two correspondents from 14 countries submitted the petition to the Afghan leader Sunday saying a pardon for French journalist Alain Guillo and Italian Fausto Bilaslovo would show the "Afghan people's generosity."

Mr. Najibullah told a news conference here at the end of a three-day visit that the petition requested the men be released on the grounds that they had not participated in hostile activities against the government.

"Unfortunately," he said, both of the men had "participated in the conflict and also illegally entered Afghanistan."

"They had resorted to war activities, to terrorist activities like subversive operations. Alain Guillo entered the country illegally nine times," Mr. Najibullah said.

Mr. Guillo was arrested in September and sentenced to 10 years in prison in January. Mr. Bilaslovo is serving a seven-year term. Both had entered Afghanistan with mujahidin rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

Gandhi Comments on Visit

BK0605163988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] During the final round of discussions between the Indian and Afghan delegations in the day, the prime minister expressed concern over Pakistan's nuclear program and its support to terrorists in Punjab.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi hoped that all parties to the Geneva accord on Afghanistan will faithfully abide by it. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was assisted during his talks by some of his cabinet colleagues and senior officials.

The Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, was assisted by senior members of his delegation. Dr Najibullah thanked India and the prime minister for providing timely help to facilitate a political settlement in Afghanistan. He said Kabul will spare no effort in implementing the accord.

The discussions between the two sides covered several issues, including escalation in the superpower presence in the Indian Ocean, the situation in the region, the Iran-Iraq war, and disarmament.

Talking to newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhawan [president's house] after Dr Najibullah's departure, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said India will give all possible help to Afghanistan in its national reconstruction and reconciliation process. He said a high-powered team from Afghanistan will soon visit New Delhi to finalize the modalities of assistance. About Kabul's desire to join SAARC, Mr Gandhi said they did not say anything on the subject.

Asked about newspaper reports regarding Norwegian heavy water finding its way to India, the prime minister said India has enough of it and need not get it from outside.

When his attention was drawn to the Bangladesh allegation that India is helping the Chakma rebels, Mr Rajiv Gandhi refuted it and said India is only looking after the Chakma refugees. He said: We expect that Bangladesh will solve this problem. General Ershad has repeatedly promised to do something about it and we hope that the needful will be done quickly, he said.

Commentary Assesses Visit

BK0705111488 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 May 88

[Commentary by TRIBUNE bureau chief S. Vishwam]

[Text] There is good reason for satisfaction both in India and Afghanistan over the outcome of the 3-day official visit of the Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, to New Delhi. This is not only because, as the president, R. Venkataraman, stressed in his welcome speech at the banquet he hosted for the distinguished visitor, India-Afghan links go back to antiquity.

India attached the greatest importance to the visit for two reasons. First, it provided an opportunity to the leaders of the two countries to exchange views, in an atmosphere of friendliness, on the emerging situation in Afghanistan after the Soviet military pullout. Second, India has a legitimate interest in a friendly, independent, nonaligned Afghanistan and has vital stake in promoting peace and stability in that country. So, the visit took place at a crucial juncture in Afghan history. As a nonaligned leader, as a regional power, and as a friend of Afghanistan, India can play an important role not only in offering assistance for the war-ravaged Afghanistan's reconstruction, but also in using its diplomacy to secure cooperation for all parties within and outside Afghanistan to make the national reconciliation process a success.

Dr Najibullah candidly acknowledged both at his conference and during talks with Indian leaders that India's role could be valuable. He said that apart from coordinating the approach of the two countries to global issues in international gatherings, India could facilitate the return of King Zahir Shah and influence the anti-government moderates and armed groups to participate in the political process to evolve a national concensus.

According to Dr Najibullah India had played a constructive role in the evaluation of the four-nation agreement in Geneva and could continue that role in the national reconciliation process. Admittedly, India had adopted a low profile during the last few years as the United Nations-sponsored negotiations for political and peaceful settlement wore on. However, now that an agreement has been signed and the Soviet military pullout is about to commence, India can assist in many ways in the restoration of stability in Afghanistan and in the avoidance of another bloodbath.

Dr Najibullah gave the Indian leaders a frank assessment of the situation as it is likely to emerge once the Soviet troops withdraw. He would persist with his efforts to involve as many groups as possible within the country and outside in the reconciliation process. For this purpose, he intended to convene another peace jirgah—national convention—to sound out opinion on future developments. He gave the impression to his hosts that his government was strong enough to withstand challenges provided the Geneva agreement was implemented in full in letter and spirit. He expressed regret over the fact that certain quarters had already started repudiating some of the terms of the agreement. He expressed the hope that shortsighted considerations would not prevail and all the parties concerned would stand by the commitments to the accord just as Afghanistan was determined to do.

At his press conference, he hinted at the possibility of his government having direct talks with the moderates in the Peshawar-based seven-group alliance to further the reconciliation process. Although the alliance was divided in its positions, the moderates could be associated with the reconciliation process if they showed the sense of responsibility and reasonableness. President Najibullah was asked if he would make way for King Zahir Shah as an interim president. While Dr Najibullah envisaged the possibility of the former king getting himself involved in the reconciliation process, even joining the coalition government, he said he had been elected for a 7-year term.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, commented that the Geneva agreement had acknowledged that tensions in Afghanistan had been imposed from outside. Both the leaders hoped that the accord would now be implemented faithfully. The prime minister has said that India would like to help in the national reconciliation process in whatever way it could. For working out the detail of bilateral assistance India could provide for that country's reconstruction, a team from Afghanistan would visit India for talks with Indian experts.

During his 3-day stay in New Delhi senior ministers called on the visiting president and discussed the nature of assistance which India could offer to restore Afghan economy. Simultaneously, members of the high-powered Afghan delegation also had talks with Indian leaders on the subject. Dr Najibullah and his delegation flew back to Kabul on Friday reassured not only of the friendliness of the Indian people for their country, but also of the potential of India-Afghan cooperation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Protest Lodged With Bangladesh on Ershad Remarks
BK0705163088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] New Delhi has lodged a strong protest with the Bangladesh Government over statements made by the president and the foreign minister alleging India's involvement in the recent massacre in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. AIR Dhaka correspondent understands that the Indian high commissioner, Mr I.S. Chadha, called on the Bangladesh foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, today and conveyed India's deep concern over the statements. Mr Chadha said such baseless allegations continue to be made despite India's repeated denials. He pointed out that these allegations have vitiated the atmosphere. Mr Chadha also told him that India is keen on the early return of Chakma refugees now in Tripura. It is for Bangladesh to take the necessary steps in this regard, Mr Chadha said.

Official on Resolve 'To Crush' Tripura Insurgents
BK0705091088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The Tripura chief minister, Mr Sudhir Ranjan Majumdar, has reiterated his government's determination to crush the TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] insurgency. Talking to newsmen in Agartala, he said the Center also shared the state government's view and assured all help to deal with the problem effectively. Replying to a question, Mr Majumdar said the army would be withdrawn from the state in a phased manner and would be replaced by Tripura State Rifles and other paramilitary forces.

Referring to the Chakma refugees, the chief minister said talks on the question of their repatriation are on between the Center and the Bangladesh Government.

'Intruder' From Pakistan Killed; Another Escapes
BK0805033488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, an intruder from Pakistan was killed and another escaped across the border while a BSF [Border Security Force] party challenged them in Ranbirsinghpura sector yesterday. Some Pakistani currency and some incriminating papers were recovered from the killed intruder.

Home Minister on Extension of President's Rule
BK0605165988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Parliament has approved extension of president's rule in Punjab by 6 months from Wednesday [11 May]. The Lok Sabha today adopted the statutary resolution which has already been approved by the Rajya Sabha.

Earlier, replying to the discussion, the home minister assured the house that elections will be held in the state as soon as the situation becomes normal and a solution is found to the Punjab problem. Mr Buta Singh agreed with the members that the situation in Punjab is very serious and urged the opposition parties and others to supplement government's efforts in finding a solution. He said the government will call the opposition leaders to a meeting to share all information about Punjab and find ways to meet the situation. He reiterated that any solution to the problem will be within the constitutional framework without affecting the country's unity and integrity. He said the Center is doing everything to implement the Punjab accord.

Most of the religious demands of the Sikhs have been implemented. A draft gurdwara [Sikh temples] act is under circulation for opinion. No reply has come from the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temples management] committee about it. Opinion of Sikh organizations and state governments is also being obtained. He said these are some of the difficulties in implementing certain sections of the accord. He urged the opposition parties to persuade the Haryana chief minister to accept the accord so that it could be implemented without any delay.

Referring to the criticism that the Punjab governor is not in tune with the reality of the situation, the home minister said the governor is doing a commendable job. The approach of political parties in Punjab should be to root out terrorism completely. Mr Buta Singh said the forces which want the country to be dismembered are using terrorism as a weapon. The terrorists have been isolated, and they have no place in the larger Sikh psyche. He assured the house that the government will take up with Islamabad the question of Pakistan training and assisting terrorists in Punjab.

And in the state, terrorists gunned down 13 persons, including 7 members of a family and a police officer, in separate incidents since last night. Terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at a farmer's family at village Gulhari in Patiala District killing seven members. The same group shot dead two more persons while fleeing. Three people were shot dead in Sangrur, Patiala, and Gurdaspur Districts. In Ferozepur District, an assistant subinspector was killed in an encounter with some terrorists.

A dreaded terrorist Daljinder Singh alias Chandi Baba and his accomplice were killed in an encounter with security forces near village Jangpura in Patiala District this evening. The director general of Punjab police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, said that Daljinder Singh was wanted by Punjab and Haryana police for his involevement in a number of terrorist killings and the recent ambush of two Himachal Pradesh Transport Corporation buses on Ambala-Chandigarh road. Twenty-six assault rifles and over 1,000 live cartridges were recovered from the killed terrorists.

Violence Continues in Punjab, Haryana States

'Terrorists' Kill 8 in Punjab

BK0705031488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists gunned down eight persons and seriously injured four in two incidents last night. In Kapurthala District, terrorists struck in village Sidhuwadona and opened indiscriminate fire, killing seven persons and injuring four. In Ropar District, a liquor vendor owner was shot dead in Morinda.

'Dreaded Terrorist' Killed

BK0805032888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Six persons were gunned down by terrorists in village Lakhankalan in Kapurthala District of Punjab late last night. According to an official spokesman, the killed included four members of a family.

A dreaded terrorist, Kulwant Singh, alias Kanta, was killed in an encounter with security forces in (Mand) area of Amritsar District yesterday evening. According an official spokesman, the terrorist was moving in suspicious circumstances near village Kot Buddha. When challenged by police he opened fire and ran away. He was chased and was killed in the encounter that followed. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from his possession. The terrorist was responsible for a number of crimes in the area.

Haryana 'Terrorists' Kill 13

BK0805033288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] In Haryana, 13 persons were shot dead and several injured, five of them seriously, by three terrorists at Panipat last night. The state home secretary, Mr J.V. Gupta, told our Chandigarh correspondent this morning that the incident occurred during marriage festivities at a labor camp outside the town. The terrorists opened indiscriminate fire with sten guns on the people attending the ceremony. The injured have been admitted to the medical college hospital, Rohtak. Police all over the state have been alerted and a massive manhunt is on to track down the culprits. Senior civil and police officials have rushed to the spot.

Northern States on 'High Alert'

BK0805125588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] Twenty-three persons have been killed in Haryana and Punjab in separate incidents of terrorist violence since last night. In Haryana, 13 people were gunned down and several injured when 3 terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at a marriage party near Panipat last night. A massive man hunt is on to nab the culprit.

In Punjab, terrorists shot dead six persons, including four of a family in Kapurthala District late last night. In Jullundur District, terrorists killed four persons in three different villages. Four terrorists were killed and one injured in two separate encounters.

In Gurdaspur District, three terrorists were killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Service Force] patrolling party. A dreaded terrorist, Kulwant Singh, was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Amritsar District.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, spoke to the Haryana chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, to express his sorrow over the terrorist killings. Mr Devi Lal sought more security forces to face the terrorist challenge.

The directors general of police of Haryana and Punjab and paramilitary forces will meet in New Delhi tomorrow to review the lastest law and order situation. All the northern states have been put on high alert.

Gurkha 'Activists' Attack Police Camp in Bengal

BK0805161088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] In West Bengal, GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] Activists attacked the state armed police camp at (Mongpu) in Kalimpong subdivision last night. According to the district magistrate about 35 GNLF men surrounded the camp, opened fire, and hurled several bombs. They fled when police returned the fire. No one was injured.

Minister on New Equipment for Armed Forces

BK0605165788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] The Army is being provided with advanced anti-aircraft weapons systems and indigenous surveillance capability. This was stated by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, while addressing the parliamentary consultative committee meeting of his ministry in New Delhi today. He said the indigenously produced radar, Indira, will provide the surveillance capability. The surface-to-air-missile, Akash, and the anti-tank missile, Nag, will be ready for deployment by next year. The Army is also being equipped with the latest T-72 tanks and infantry combat vehicles. While the Vijayanta and the T-55 tanks are being updated, the artillery will be provided with the latest 155-mm guns.

Mr Pant said steps have also been taken for transfer of technology, indigenous research, and development to produce advanced weapons required by the Armed Forces.

Government Plans 10 More Atomic Reactors

BK0705160588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The government is planning to set up 10 more atomic reactors to increase output of nuclear power. The chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr M.R. Srinivasan, said this at a seminar on nuclear technology in New Delhi today. He said the first 235-megawatt unit of Narora atomic power plant will start operating this year. The second will be ready in 2 years. The Kakhrapar plant near Surat in Gujarat will become operational in 1991.

Former Law Minister Joins Opposition Front

BK0705125688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The former law minister, Mr Ashok Sen, has joined the Jan Morcha [People's Front]. He made the announcement in New Delhi today in the presence of the Jan Morcha leaders, Mr V.P. Singh, Mr Arun Nehru, Mr V.C. Shukla, Mr Satpal Malik, and Mr Arif Mohammad Khan.

Iran

Khomeyni Appoints New Chief of Joint Staff

LD0705165588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 88

[text] In a decree Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief, has appointed the new chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The imam's decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Staff Colonel 'Ali Shahbazi: In consideration of your reported suitability and religious and revolutionary commitment, you are promoted to brigadier general and appointed to the post of chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I pray to God Almighty for your success in serving Islam and the Islamic Republic system.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Profile of New Chief of Staff

LD0905071488 Tehran IRNA in English 2005 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni in a decree issued here Saturday appointed Staff Colonel 'Ali Shahbazi as the new chief of staff of the Islamic Republic Armed Forces after promoting him to the rank of brigadier general.

In a separate decree, the founder of the Islamic Republic lauded former chief of staff Brigadier General Ismael Sohrabi for his [words indistinct] and appointed him as the military supervisor of the Supreme War Support Council.

The new chief of staff Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, 42, was born in the holy city of Qom in 1946. He entered the officers' college when he [words indistinct] in 1984, Shahbazi was promoted to the rank of colonel.

He has successfully passed preliminary and high military courses during his military career. He has also an outstanding record in the guerrilla warfare headquarters in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province.

Brigadier General Shahbazi who is one of the youngest commanders in the Islamic Republic Armed Forces has served as the deputy chief of staff for coordination affairs for the past four years. Shahbazi is married and father of four children.

Received by Khamene'i

NC0905082388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 MAY 88

[Text] Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, the new chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was introduced to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council [SDC], at a ceremony which was attended by the commanders of the three branches of the Armed Forces, the defense minister, police and Gendarmerie commanders, and the heads of the politico-ideological departments of the Joint Staff and the three branches of the Armed Forces. According to the Central News Unit, during this ceremony, the president expressed his condolences to the audience on the martyrdom of 'Ali (AS). He also thanked Brig Gen Sohrabi, the former chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran, for his services.

The president said: In this period, which is one of the most trying and dangerous for the Armed Forces, Brig Gen Sohrabi played an extraordinary role. The president added: Today, more than ever before, the Armed Forces require a sincere and dedicated effort. Its capability of attaining the higher objectives of the revolution, in terms of manpower, equipment, or military know-how, is not insigificant.

Referring to the oppressive powers' military and economic embargo on Iran, the president said: Even though this embargo should be considered a loss for our Armed Forces, they have been able to coordinate the needs of the country with the prevailing situation through innovative, constructive, and suitable efforts which befit a revolutionary armed forces in such a manner that the world now considers our Armed Forces to be powerful and strong. The SDC chairman added: Whether on land, sea, or in the air, our Armed Forces utilize their abilities and talents to forcefully project a decisive presence. The Joint Staff should bring about the necessary coordination among the forces in its capacity as the Joint Armed Forces Staff Command.

The president stressed the need for constructiveness and self-sufficiency in the Armed Forces and cooperation between the military and law enforcement forces of the country. He said in this connection: The Armed Forces and the Corps [IRGC] should be present at all times. He added: The IRGC is a young military force on the scene which can provide the Armed Forces with great support. Even now the IRGC is a colleague which helps the Armed Forces on all scenes. This cooperation should continue in an intensive and forceful manner.

At the conclusion of these ceremonies, the president presented Brig Gen Sohrabi, the former chief of the Joint Staff, with a plaque of merit. The president and SDC chairman also promoted Staff Colonel Iraj Sepehr to the rank of brigadier general. He succeeds the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IRGC Spokesman Afshar Threatens Saudi Arabia

LD0605184888 Tehran IRNA in English 1842 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Kerman, May 6, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) will continue to defend the Persian Gulf and protect the rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran, IRGC spokesman 'Ali Reza Afshar told IRNA here today.

Afshar, who is here to inaugurate new IRGC commander for Kerman Province, said that IRGC naval forces are now a lot more capable in action than foreign powers and especially the U.S. would like to believe.

He advised the heads of the littoral states and especially the Saudis to be ready to protect their own peoples rather than to allow to be blackmailed into doing anything for the superpowers.

Musavi Receives UN Representative Mahallati

LD0705180388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Mohammad Ja'far Mahalati, the Islamic Republic of Iran's UN representative, conferred with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi this evening. In the meeting Mr Mahallati informed the prime minister about the latest UN activities and the decision in connection with the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons, the Persian Gulf issue, and U.S. policy that creates tension in the region.

Mr Musavi then said: The Security Council's lack of success is a consequence of the injustice that prevails in that council. The whole world has testified to Saddam's crimes in the bombing of Halabjah, but the Security Council in a vague and ambiguous statement refrained from taking a clear position. The prime minister added: We attribute this position to the illegitimate influence of arrogant powers in the Security Council. Therefore, we have no faith in that council,and are not prepared to accord by our actions any legitimacy to unjust Security Council positions.

Petroleum Minister on Upcoming OPEC Session

LD0905124888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] In an interview discussing OPEC's decision concerning those members who are ignoring the production quota, Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh said: I hope OPEC will take note of this matter and adopt a special position in this respect, because such a position regarding the offenders is needed.

On Iran's position at the forthcoming OPEC session and its cooperation with non-OPEC producers, he said: One of the important aspects of this session is that for the first time non-OPEC producers have proposed a 5-percent reduction in their production and a 5-percent cut in OPEC production. That was very important because through an agreement with non-OPEC producers, we will be able to resolve the supply and demand problem and bring under control a larger share of oil exports to the West.

He expressed optimism that in the next OPEC session full agreement will be reached with non-OPEC countries, despite opposition from Saudi Arabia, and that the Saudis will reconsider their position.

Regarding the remarks made by the oil minister of the Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] regime who accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of exceeding its quota, our petroleum minister said: Although we are capable of producing more than our quota, we have not done so and will not

exceed it. Unfortunately, for political reasons and because of the regional situation, the Hijaz regime makes unfounded remarks which should be ignored. If we wished to introduce political issues into OPEC, it would no doubt become an undesirable situation. [sentence as heard] Saudi Arabia's lack of cooperation and their raising of political issues resulted in the [previous] session not reaching full agreement. On the whole, that session can be considered a political defeat for the Hijaz regime. I am sure that following that session other countries will complain about the Saudis, they will give in because of pressure from other countries and their dependence on oil revenues, and we will reach an agreement. Under no circumstances do we want OPEC to disintegrate.

Concerning the effects on our oil exports due to the American military attack on our countries' oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, he said: We suffered economic damage from these attacks. However, thanks to our high production capability, it will have no effect on our quota. However, the United States is responsible for the damage and should pay for it.

Finally, as regards the solution of the problems and shortages of engine oil, he expressed the hope that as a result of measures under review the supply of engine oil will improve within a few months.

Commentary on U.S. 'Pressure' on Gulf States
LD0905153988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 9 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Despite false claims by the United States to the effect that its warships are in the Persian Gulf to maintain the security of international waters, Richard Murphy, the highest official in the State Department for Middle East affairs, has told a symposium on the imposed Iraqi war against the Islamic Republic Iran that the broader security role of the United States in the Persian Gulf is a consequence of the pressures arising from the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran.

Murphy's remarks reveal certain facts, including that the United States, whose interests in the region were jeopardized by the Islamic Revolution, intends by its deployment of forces in the Persian Gulf on a scale unprecedented since the Vietnam war to change the course of the imposed war. In other words, the United States wants to reverse the defeat of Iraq's Ba'thist forces and prevent the export of the Islamic Revolution and its achievements. This is the reason Washington has exerted all its efforts to prevent the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war.

The United States has applied several levers of political and military pressure to achieve its desired aims. By exerting pressure on the Security Council members it hopes to have the the arms embargo against the Islamic Republic of Iran approved and to use international pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran. These efforts are taking place even though Murphy has admitted the failure of U.S. efforts to stop the Islamic Republic of Iran from obtaining arms. He said in the same connection that U.S. efforts to stop arms from reaching Iran have not been as successful as hoped, because Iran has found other sources for arms. The United States entered the battlefield of the Persian Gulf region with extensive facilities to bare its teeth and claws to the Islamic Republic and to defend Iraq. However, these efforts have yielded no results to date.

In addition to bringing European countries into line, the United States, in this action has benefited from the facilities of the shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf. In the same connection Murphy said that Western countries are jointly patrolling the Persian Gulf. He noted that Kuwait and Bahrain have provided logistical support for these operations. In addition, along with the pressures the United States and its allies are trying to exert on the Islamic Republic of Iran, their overt and covert support for the Ba'thist Iraqi regime is daily increasing.

Despite the widespread reaction to the use of chemical weapons in Halabjah by the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, the UN Security Council's deadly silence may be assessed with reference to the U.S. pressures in that council. At any rate, arrogance will not be able to prevent the downfall of the Baghdad regime, and U.S. pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran will have no consequences other than the intensified resistance of the Islamic ummah of our country until the attainment of its demands.

KEYHAN Deplores Amal-Hizballah Clashes
LD0605124388 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Apr 88 p 20

[Text] Southern Lebanon has been the scene of regrettable clashes between Hizballah and Amal during the past few days. There have already been heavy casualties. These clashes started when Amal accused the Hizballah of shooting one of its high-ranking officials. Hizballah officials denied this allegation and said that Zionist elements were to blame. In any case, the clashes that had started in some villages around Al-Nabatiyah grew to encompass an area near Sidon and extended all the way to Tyre. Following the intervention of Shaykh Shams al-Din, head of the Supreme Shi'ite Assembly, a meeting of Amal and Hizballah representatives was held. Efforts were launched by the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, a cease-fire was declared along the confrontation lines, and so far there have been no reports of this cease-fire being broken.

Basically, the roots of the clashes between the Hizballah and Amal can be traced back to the time when the Hizballah first started to make waves in Lebanon. It formed a vast orgaization in the south Lebanon area, the

Al-Biqa' valley, and the southern suburbs of Beirut. Young people rushed to join the Hizballah, and this organization grew in military and political strength, particularly among the young people. On the other hand, there are basic differences between the two sides in terms of their views on the Lebanese conflict, its relationship to the Middle East crisis, their understanding of the problems of the Islamic world, and other basic questions.

This is why there have been clashes in the past between Amal and the Hizballah in the same areas, because Amal considered the other oganization a powerful rival in Lebanon's military and political arena. In the past, intervention from powerful Islamic leaders prevented such clashes from spreading.

Despite all this, there are irresponsible elements within the central core of Amal who see the growing influence of Hizballah as a threat to their political independence and also to the interests of regional powers involved in Lebanon. This has prevented the two sides from beng able to get rid of the elements causing dissension, despite having a common ground in religion and some shared principles. This is why some members of Amal, while maintaining their dependence on that organization, have formed a new group called the Resistance of the Faithful whose aim is to support the Hizballah's line of armed struggle against the Zionists and confrontation with the ruling Phalangist regime.

Regardless of the basic differences between Amal and Hizballah, some of which have been mentioned, it must be said that the recent clashes between the two sides followed the kidnapping of the American colonel—a member of the UN peace-keeping force in southern Lebanon—some 2 months ago. Amal made the unacceptable claim that the kidnapping of the American colonel was a show of strength against its security measures in southern Lebanon, an area where it considers itself the sole guarantor of security. Although Hizballah denied it had kidnapped the colonel because of the colonel's spying activity, it has supported the kidnapping.

This has caused Al-Da'ud's branch of Amal in southern Lebanon, with effective help from the UN forces, to launch an all-out search to find the hiding place of the American colonel's kidnappers. In this effort Hizballah centers in southern villages have been attacked by Amal militiamen and the homes of Hizballah supporters have been searched. In one incident the theological center at Sidiqin, which is considered one of the main Hizballah strongholds, was searched. Despite the efforts of the Al-Da'ud branch to find the colonel, the kidnappers managed to move him to a safe location, thereby rendering Al-Da'ud's efforts futile.

Al-Da'ud considers the kidnapping of the American colonel as an incident that questions Amal's ability to maintain security in southern Lebanon. For this reason it has launched new measures to limit the influence of Hizballah and to control the movement of the Islamic resistance. These actions have been followed by clashes which have ended with the intervention of clergymen.

However, as we said before, there are disruptive elements in the Amal leadership, headed by Al-Da'ud, who want to prevent anti-Zionist attacks launched by Hizballah. They also want to lessen the Hizballah presence in south Lebanese villages. Along these lines, one must say that the recent clashes are due to the feelings rife among the Birri faction of Amal.

However, past incidents have shown that Hizballah has overcome several such major plots with its head high. This time too, it will be able to destroy the conspiracy now growing in southern Lebanon by adopting the proper actions and precautions.

WIH Spokesman Denies Darband-e Khan Shelling

LD0605192988 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Spokesman of Iran's War Information Headquarters said here Friday that Baghdad is falsely accusing Iran of having shelled Darband-e Khan city of Iraq today. He said the accusation is "just another routine propaganda ploy by the Iraqi government to justify its intended resumption of the war of cities."

The spokesman said in a counter-claim that during the past few days the Iraqi armed forces have repeatedly shelled Abadan, Khorramshahr, Baneh and Sar Dasht, Iranian cities near the Iraq-Iran borders, and that the Islamic Republic has shown utmost restriant in coping with Iraq's new round of hostilities.

He addressed himself to responsible international organizations calling on them to watch out for Iraq's invention of new excuses for escalating its fighting with Iran.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Air Force Bombs Iraqi Forces

LD0705104988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced: The pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, flying several of their fighter aircraft, heavily bombed troop concentrations of the 1st Army of Iraq in the western operational theater at 1024 today. Having inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the enemy they returned safely to their bases.

Iraq Shells Baneh; 2 Killed

LD0705204588 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Two civilians were martyred and 19 others wounded when residential areas of the border town of Baneh, Kurdistan Province, were shelled by Iraqi long-range artillery fire for 55 minutes Friday night.

Twelve houses were also damaged in the shelling, the heaviest since a 17-day virtual lull in the Iraqi regime's attacks on Iranian residential quarters.

7 May Communique

LD0705190788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] According to the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 1024 and 1155 today, the self-sacrificing pilots of several fighter-bombers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force subjected the positions and troop concentrations of the Iraqi Army V Corps stationed in the Hajj 'Umran operational area to heavy bombardment. After inflicting heavy casualties and losses, they all returned safely to base. On the basis of this report, aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday carried out air patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in support of our country's naval operations, and in order to identify the positions of foreign vessels.

Fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, in the course of sea patrols in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to control shipping lanes and defend oil platforms and islands for the purpose of preventing the transport of goods and military equipment to the Iraqi regime, identified and inspected one foreign merchant vessel. No suspicious goods were found, and the ship was allowed to continue its course. A foreign aircraft attempting to approach the airspace of one of the southern islands was forced to flee by the the heavy fire of the air defense forces stationed there.

The Joint Staff communique also states: The fighters of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ground Forces, while defending their designated positions, fortifying and consolidating defense positions, and dispatching patrol, combat, and reconnaisance groups [words indistinct] executed heavy weapons fire on the positions, armored columns, supply routes, and troop concentrations of the enemy forces, destroying several weapon emplacements and killing or wounding a number of Saddamists.

According to the report, all enemy artillery positions, command bases, positions, and troop concentrations in the general areas of Maymak, Kani-Sheykh, Mehran, and Changuleh were subjected to the heavy fire of one of the powerful artillery units of the army of Islam. Many casualties and losses were inflicted. The smoke from the explosion of munitions installations of the Saddmist forces covered the region.

8 May Communique

LD0805191188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: Air patrols by the Air Force of the Islamic Republic to identify and locate foreign vessels were carried out over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman despite warnings by foreign naval vessels. During these operations dozens of vessels were identified and tracked.

The Navy of the Islamic Republic also carried out its patrols of the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with the aim of stopping any goods or military equipment reaching Iraq. The resistant warriors of the Ground Forces defended their positions during the past 24 hours in all fronts of the imposed war. While sending out patrols, their fire against positions, fortifications and enemy vehicle columns resulted in the destruction of some of the positions of the Saddamists and the death or wounding of a number of Iraqi personnel.

All enemy activity across all the fronts were under complete control of warriors of Islam.

Tudeh Party on Attack on Feda'i-ye Khalq

LD0605195588 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 6 May 88

[Statement by the Tudeh Party Central Committee]

[Text] Aware and fighting people of Iran: Revolutionary and democratic forces of the nation. Following relentless conspiracies and psychological propaganda warfare against Iran's Tudeh Party by the Islamic Republic's reactionary and inhuman regime, the regime's machinery for suppression and strangulation on 4 May broke its conspiratorial silence about its criminal attack on members and supporters of Iran's Feda'i-ye Khalq Organization, Majority Wing, in Khorasan Province; outlined a series of (?accusations); and announced that one of the members of Iran's Tudeh Party, who had a specific mission, had been arrested in that province.

Iran's Tudeh Party strongly denies any affiliation or connection between that person and the Tudeh Party. The Tudeh Party of Iran assesses these lies and slanders—which occur as the struggle of the party cells and activists inside the country is expanding and as the general social crisis, the intragovernment crisis, and the dead-end situation of the regime in its policy of continuing the war are intensifying—as a disgraceful joint conspiracy against Iran's Tudeh Party and the Feda'i-ye

Khalq Organization, Majority Wing, against brotherly, progressive, neighboring countries, and as another criminal act against the lives of our nation's political prisoners.

Iran's Tudeh Party severely condemns the savage attack on the members and supporters of the Feda'i-ye Khalq Organization, Majority Wing, and calls on all dear compatriots and all the revolutionary, democratic, and peace-loving forces of the nation to intensify the united battle against the regime and strengthen their alliance with the political prisoners and revolutionaries of Darband prison.

Long live freedom! Long live peace! Down with the despotic regime of the rule of an Islamic jurisconsult!

[Signed] The political delegation of the Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee

Pakistan

Muhajirs, Pathan Settlers Clash in Karachi

BK0705122088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1207 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, May 7 (AFP)—Rival communities clashed for several hours here Saturday leaving one person dead and six injured, police said.

Another person, reportedly hit by police fire in Karachi's curfew-bound Shah Faisal District, died Friday, local sources said. Police would not confirm that the man's injuries had been caused by police fire.

Urdu-speaking Muhajirs and Pathan settlers clashed for several hours Saturday in Western Karachi leaving one person dead and six injured, police said. Witnessess said the two communities had exchanged gunfire. No more details were available.

The latest casualties bring the death toll in a wave of communal violence to 15.

Earlier in the week, 13 people were killed during violent clashes in Karachi's Orangi and Qasba slum areas.

The current wave of ethnic violence was aparently triggered off by an incident involving a Pathan driver and a Mujahir pedestrian.

8 Killed; Curfew Imposed

BK0805082488 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] A press note issued by the commissioner of Karachi says during the night of 7th and 8th May, firing started suddenly between two groups in police station Khwaja Ajmer Nagri. Police intervened on a number of occasions. In the morning at about 0700, houses of both the groups were damaged by arson by miscreants. Police intervened and controlled the situation. Seven houses and one shop were damaged. Four persons from public and four policemen, including one ASI [assistant subinspector of police], succumbed to their injuries. Police have controlled the situation.

Curfew has been imposed with effect from 1200 today in the jurisdiction of police station Khwaja Ajmer Nagri.

15 Killed, 73 Injured

BK0805153688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 MAY 88

[Text] In Karachi, 15 people have been killed and 73 injured in incidents of rioting in two areas of the city. Of those killed, 12 lost their lives in a shooting incident in Khwaja Ajmer Nagri and 3 in Paposh Nagar. Twenty-four of the injured persons are being treated in the hospital, while others were discharged from the hospital after receiving first aid. Six houses and a shop were damaged in Khawaja Ajmer Nagri, while four autorickshaws were damaged in Gulbahar and Pak Colony.

Federal Minister for Works and Housing Haji Mohammad Hanif Taiyab has expressed profound grief over the fresh incidents of violence in Karachi. During a meeting with a cross section of people in Karachi, he said he knew they wanted to live in peace and harmony. He said the possibility that certain outside elements are encouraging the violence cannot be ruled out. He appealed to the people to be considerate, to observe patience and restraint, and to unite to foil the designs of antisocial elements.

Curfew-Affected Areas Widened

BK0905023488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] The Karachi commissioner has announced that indefinite curfew has been imposed in eleven police station limits from 0300 [2200 GMT] this morning to prevent any acts of lawlessness and loss of life and property. The names of police station areas where curfew has been imposed follow: Soldier Bazaar, Shah Faisal Colony, Landhi, Qaidabad, Brigades, (?Malir Extension Colony), Model Colony, Malir, Nazimabad, Gulbahar, and Liaqatabad.

Indefinite curfew will continue in the Khwaja Ajmer Nagri and New Karachi police station areas.

Death Toll Reaches 24

BK0905082288 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 May 88

[Text] In Karachi, indefinite patrolling by the law-enforcing agencies continues in the affected areas of yesterday's violence. According to latest reports, the death toll in the disturbances since yesterday has now risen to 24 with more injured succumbing to their injuries in the hospital. Besides the affected areas of 3

police stations, the local administration has clamped curfew in 11 other police station areas as a preemptive measure. A number of arrests have been made for violence, arson, and possession of illegal arms.

Japan's Mitsui Group To Construct Power Plant
OW0705131588 Tokyo KYODO in English 0849 GMT 7 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 7, KYODO—The Japanese Mitsui Group will construct a 600-megawatt thermal power plant on a turnkey basis for a British-Saudi Arabian joint venture, an official of the British company said Saturday.

The power plant will be built at Hub Chowki near Karachi and will be Pakistan's first plant in the power sector under the recent government decision to induct private enterprise in power generation.

The 1,200-megawatt power plant is proposed to be set up by Britain's Hawker Siddeley and Xenol of Saudi Arabia and will sell electricity to the state-owned water and power development authority.

Preben Sundanaes, finance director of Hawker Siddeley, told reporters him firm would provide another unit of 600 megawatts for the plant which will use furnace oil imported from Saudi Arabia.

He said the power plant is being set up under the build, own, operate and transfer (boot) scheme and would be transferred to the Government of Pakistan after a stipulated period of time and when the joint venture has repaid its capital cost of the project.

Paper Criticizes Reagan's Threats to Iran
BK0705082988 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Apr 88 p 4

[Editorial: "A Reagan Re-Run"]

[Text] President Reagan's strong warning to Iran will come as a surprise to all those who firmly believed that the tension in the Gulf could be defused by a determined effort on all sides to reduce the unnecessary confrontation. The situation is not beyond remedy, particularly as Iran, the major Gulf nation and also the one which is facing the most American pressure, had always taken a conciliatory position in offering to resolve any problem through a regional effort. The Reagan threat, therefore, seriously jeopardises the prospects of peace and only adds to the criticality of the situation which in recent times was heightened by American attacks on Iranian off shore installations.

It is, of course not clear why the American President delivered his threat at this point of time. The nearest explanation can be that it was designed to bolster Iraq's position which has suffered serious reverses in the war. Having been worsted by the Iranians in the north, the Iraqis have now moved their area of operation to the south where they can be assured of support from the Americans whose naval flotilla is already deployed in the Gulf. But unlike Tehran, Baghdad has no compunction in how it pursues the war. Apart from freely using banned chemical weapons, it has indulged in reckless shelling and bombing in the region, which has affected both its friends and foes. It probably would have been better had President Reagan directed his warning towards Baghdad which poses a bigger threat to peace in the Gulf than any other regional power. Threatening Iran is not likely to strengthen Iraq's position.

But it is not expected that Iran, which has been prosecuting a principled war since it was imposed on it, will succumb to the warning. It has not till now shown any inclination to easily retreat from the firm position it has taken regarding a ceasefire and punishment of the aggressor. The repeated American strikes on Iranian interests in the Gulf and the drafting of some of the regional states into a front against Tehran, have not dimmed its determination to pursue its objective. The warning has only added to the tension, rather than defusing it.

On the other hand it will be most regrettable if the new hardline adopted by President Reagan towards Iran is any way linked to the Afghan settlement. The Geneva accord was aimed at resolving a conflict, but it should not be seen as a means of releasing the Americans from their involvement in one region to direct all their attention to another. It would hardly serve the ends of peace in Afghanistan or the Gulf if it appears that both the areas are alternate options for the United States to exploit as and when needed as a part of its overall strategy. The Soviet Union, which was the other superpower in the Geneva settlement, in such circumstances could be seen as a partner of the Americans in their bizarre game. It would, therefore, be in Moscow's interest to adopt a constructive position vis-a-vis the American warning to Iran, so that it preempts any move to make the Gulf a new flashpoint.

Peace in the Gulf, as has been rightly pointed out, is the concern of only the states of the region. There is no cause for any superpower to exacerbate the situation by imposing its presence or its prescriptions on the area, which is neither acceptable to all the states nor is practical. The American presence or the presence of any other power, therefore, becomes a threat rather than a source of security for some of the Gulf states, and the present situation, which is fast reaching a point of explosion wholly due to the actions of the United States, could lead to a major disaster for all the Gulf nations.

Plans for Afghan Refugees' Return Reviewed
BK0505154088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] A meeting in Islamabad today reviewed the plans being made for the return of Afghan refugees to their country following the signing of the Geneva accords. The

federal minister for Kashmir affairs and frontier regions, Syed Qasim Shah, presided over the meeting. He said that the Office of the UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] and other aid agencies are assisting Pakistan in every way to effectively take care of this largest refugee population in the world.

It was also said at the meeting that it is expected that the aid-giving agencies will not reduce their assistance until the task of returning the Afghan refugees is completed. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the ministry of frontier regions, the chief commissioner of Afghan refugees, the provincial commissioner of refugees, aand representatives of the UNHCR and the World Food Program.

'Broad-Based Government' Urged for Afghanistan

BK0805091188 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 May 88

[Commentary by M.J. Ahmad]

[Text] Mr Diego Cordovez, the UN mediator, who played a key role in the signing of the Geneva accord, has once again emphasized the importance of the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan and creation of conditions conducive to the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland. Mr Cordovez has said that he was deeply committed to help promote a broad-based government as Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan. He said he would spare no efforts toward the formation of a broad-based government aimed at facilitating the return of the refugees.

The UN mediator praised the determination of the government of Pakistan in facilitating the work of the United Nations in achieving the objectives of the Geneva accord at the earliest. He said the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, and his government have shown their interest in the prompt completion of all the necessary arrangements. Mr Cordovez hoped that very soon there will be very [words indistinct] movement in the various aspects that were identified at Geneva as being essential to achieve peace in Afghanistan. This, indeed, is a very welcome statement by the UN mediator, who has been deeply involved with the problem in the proximity talks in Geneva, but ultimately led to the historic Geneva accord.

Pakistan's major concern after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, has been the return of refugees in conditions that are conducive to their being once again in their homes. That is why he has also emphasized formation of a broad-based government, which will represent all segments of the Afghanistan population. Pakistan's efforts in this direction have not been hidden from anybody and it has worked for that ceaselessly. Pakistan wants the return of refugees in honor. It had given them shelter as a brother Muslim people and it has always wanted them to go back to their hearths and homes as respectable citizens.

The emphasis on these aspects of the Geneva accord by the UN mediator is the reiteration of our just stand on the issue and shows the willingness of the world body to go ahead with this noble task.

Sri Lanka

State Minister on Free Press, BBC Reporting

BK0605144088 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1150 GMT 6 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 6 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan Minister of State and Information Dr Anandatissa de Alwis addressing an audience of senior media persons at a seminar on "Crisis Reporting in Media" said Sri Lanka was in deep crisis—the crisis of terrorism.

The minister, himself a former journalist, said we are in deep crisis in this country. The crisis of terrorism. Death is round the corner. Not only for politicians but, for you and all of us. Although, today there was a free press, there will be no more a free press if the bullet takes over from the ballot.

In India and Sri Lanka there is freedom of the press, unlike in a number of other developing countries, said the minister of state and information.

The minister of state and information said politics should be a clash of ideas and not of human beings. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has said the media has a responsibility not to give publicity to terrorism in order to deny what terrorism seeks. Dr de Alwis posed the question "How do we report this crisis?"

The people, Dr de Alwis said, had a right to know. Censorship would only give way to lying by the foreign media. Today, a correspondent could get to his hotel and telephone his news editor abroad. The minister said we must tell the truth ourselves. The way we report events in our country must be balanced. By balanced he meant not blacking out news or having different versions carried side by side. It should be a professional exercise in truth, what must be accepted and valid.

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC] which reached even the remotest villages was credible. He had never told the SLBC to tell a lie.

We must tell the truth and people must know we are telling the truth, said the minister. He said that in days gone by the BBC was highly credible and he used to look forward to "London Calling." But now its credibility had hit very low depths. Those wonderful days of non slant are over. BBC should be included in the "That's Incredible" television programme (currently being shown on Sri Lankan TV).

Citing one instance of BBC distortion, the minister said that when Hindu devotees who had pierced their tongues with steel needles during the annual Hindu festival according to tradition, and in keeping with vows, the BBC had reported that the Sinhalese had pierced the tongues of the Tamils.

The seminar was organized by the Ministry of Information and the Department of Information in collaboration with the Sri Lankan Foundation Institute.

Strike in Trincomalee; Tamil Groups Hold Talks

BK0705053688 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a total hartal [strike] was observed in Trincomalee today. This was in response to a call given by the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization. It was on this day in 1986 that the TELO leader, Mr Sabaratnam, and hundreds of his men were killed by the LTTE in rival group clashes.

Meanwhile, Tamil groups have held unity talks in Trincomalee. Local leaders of EROS, EPRLF, and ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] took part in the meeting. TELO, which could not attend the meeting, has said it will accept the decisions of the meeting.

IPKF Capture Terrorists, Raid LTTE Hideout

BK0805113988 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 May 88

[Text] The Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] searched and sealed the PLOTE office in Vavuniya. Two PLOTE terrorists were apprehended along with one motorcycle and one bicycle.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that the IPKF also raided an LTTE hideout at Vavuniya and seized one M-16 rifle, four 60-mm motor bombs and one hand grenade and five claymore mines.

The IPKF also apprehended three terrorists in Vavuniya town. Meanwhile, in another incident which occurred yesterday, three members of the EPRLF were reported to have kidnapped Mohammad Farad from the education office at Mannar.

Briefs

Tamil Refugees Return

A batch of over 700 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived from Rameswaram in Kakesanthurai in Jaffna yesterday. The PKF and the Sri Lankan officials made arrangements for their stay there. With this, 12,000 Sri Lankan refugees have so far returned to their homes in Sri Lanka. [Text] [*BK0805034688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 88*]